s Art to Life

sociated with Miller's mork. There is a dreamdisc quality to "Salesman," ill of bacasomists, insocation of spiriting med

pant by numbers broadianism, a comm built a hipport secret that or easily a minute of second act, and supporting characters with

and guilt that lurk beneath the sociology.
Their success underscores the cumremissance that Miller has been enjoying a teady andience among the deliberton on politically committed play walling to

mereasingly becoming a form of enema of right and wrong suggest that the theatre

who they are and what they stand for"

Coverett Palmow was normalised her idward Norton for "American History X" A Simple Plan. of March 21





Cortainly "Salesman" has its problem.

are little more than cardboard curous

These flaws, however, are subsumed h the play's visceral and deeply affecting by the play's visceral and deeply affecting by the play in father and son. The play in Willy's fears of knong batt's long and by the play in the play is play in the play in the play in the play in the play is play in the play is play in the own longings for universality in drug not just to be liked, but to be well liked by it immerses the audience of Willy to flicted, contradictory state of until

The play was constructed on the prents the pass was the growing pane on preme that Willy, in his growing pane and or fusing, sees time not as a continuum but a simultaneity of moments past and present the phy's confessional structure, consultant present the phy's confessional structure, consultant the phy's confessional structure, consultant the phy's confessional structure, consultant the phy's confessional structure.

Avalanche

dreams and reprets our and overlap.

In recent years, the most successful particles of Miller's plays have play educations of Miller's plays have play educations of Miller's plays have play education aspects to reveal the paychological subtext, the bedrock emona of sexual passion and familial laws being that that bark begant the sociology

not just in Britain, where his work has lon also in the United States, where the Signal Theater Company recently completed no fong retrospective of his plays in New York What accounts for Miller's communications.

peal? Perhaps some of the very aspectors work that seem so old-tashioned - his me al seriousness and tonduces for mythica tonations - are refreshing anomalies mb age of relentless fromy and cynicism

in a day when the avant-garde has a sistemly purveyed a vision of a mone world, Miller's assumption that the b meaning" appeals to our vestigial belief the dots can be connected, that a patterness found in the carpet. In a day when the artis

will provide a venue for intellectual deba Indeed, his plays affect to his own he that works of art can "change the or sciousness of people and their emines

Tops Oscar Nominations

sic "Saving Private Ryan," reals 11 nonmana eth" and "The Thin Red Line.

hed as best director for "Shakespeare," ass Begunial and Terrence Main's for Thella il" also was nominated as yest torough laguer ias earned nominations in both categoricon if "Central Station" from Brazil, "Uniford Chandfather" from Spain and Tage for

manda Monieficare for "L'entra Sanor Ca Mary! Stroep for "The True Thine" and had ie. Torn Hanka, who has already consider I for this role in "Ryan." He was much is initiated. Bonight for "Lite 1s Beamin" Si feet for heat supporting action for he sky Binthyri for Lattle Voice, had beach chei Griffiths for Hilloy and lickie adla-





Herald Merational Cribunte. PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

.The World's Daily Newspaper

London, Thursday, February 11, 1999

Toll Hits 10 In French Alp

By Elizabeth Olson Special to the Herald Tribune

GENEVA - Unusually heavy snowfall triggered avalanches in the Alps, killing at least 10 people and cansing widespread disruptions in road, rail and air journeys across Cen-tral Europe Wednesday.

An avalanche that roared through and uprooted chalets in two villages near Chamonix, a popular tourist area in France's Mont Blanc region, near Geneva, claimed at least 10 lives Tuesday. An additional 17 people were injured, and a 12-year-old boy was

About 200 searchers with sensors and dogs continued Wednesday to comb through wreckage for additional survivors, The Associated Press re-Two more avalanches struck the

See AVALANCHE, Page 10



The avalanches that killed at least 10 people near the ski resort of Chamonix also destroyed 17 chalets.

Missiles Facing Taiwan Challenge U.S. Goal

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

BEUING — Taiwan said Wednesday that China had recently deployed more than 100 ballistic missiles in provinces facing this island of 21 million people in a move destined to heighten tension across one of Asia's most strategic waterways.

smantic comedy "Shake speaks in Low" and had the deployment more than tripled the number of saday, genting up to do both to best palms missiles previously believed to be in that area.

The step constituted, they said, China's response to talk in Washington about placing parts of Asia, in-cloding Taiwan, under an American missile-defense unbrella.

The U.S. proposals, which are so far only in the planning stages, are roiling the waters of American-Chinese relations and providing the most significant challenge to Washington's emerging security ties with Asian 'Umbrella' Strategy **Angers Chinese Leaders**

the world's most populous natioo since a face-off over

Taiwan three years ago.

In recent weeks, Chinese officials — from the Foreign Ministry, the military and think tanks associated with the State Security Ministry — have warned of grave consequences if the missile defense system is put into effect in Asia, specifically if Taiwan

is allowed to participate in the program.

China's new deployment illustrates the sensitivities and potential explosiveness of both Taiwan and the missile defense issue.

In recent weeks, China has - literally and figmatively - gone ballistic about the prospect of a U.S. theater missile defense system in Asia, even though

the technology is at best unproved, at least eight years away from being deployed and at worst a costly

In addition, oo firm plans have been made in Washington to provide Taiwan with access to the antimissile umbrella, although Congress directed the Pentagon last year to study the issue.
So far, the United States has sold Taiwan some

Patriot anti-missile batteries and is considering selling it Aegis destroyers, which are designed to provide early warning against missile attacks and counter both short- and medium-range surface-to-surface missiles. Analysts said there were several reasons why re-

gional missile defense had stirred Beljing's anger.
One is that China claims Taiwan — a rich, multiparty democracy — as its territory. Any moves by the U.S. government to strengthen Washington's am-

See MISSILES, Page 4

Old Satellites Give Russia Dangerous Blind Spots

By David Hoffman Washington Post Service

for heat supporting active to he he was adjusted by the for "Lattle Voice," had back against missile attack, a key aspect of the hair-trigger against missile attack,

to Russian and Western security analysts.

The danger in the country's faltering early-warning ability, some Western specialists say, is an increased risk of a doomsday response to a false alert.

For several hours each day, Russian military commanders cannot see any of the U.S. missile fields, nor can they monitor the most dangerous threat to their

AGENDA

Holbrooke Clears

Hurdle to UN Job

Richard Holbrooke, the former

U.S. diplomat, will pay \$5,000 to put to rest ethical allegations that have stymied his nomination as U.S. chief delegate to the United

Nations. Congressional sources have said that Mr. Holbrooke, who is best known for brokering the

Bosnia peace accord, will very likely be confirmed. Page 7.

France Assails

Sanctions on Iraq

PARIS (AFP) — Foreign Min-ister Hubert Vedrine of France de-

nounced UN sanctions on Iraq as

"nseless and cruel" Wednesday as

he renewed calls for a new inter-

national approach to neutralizing

Bachdad's weapons program. He told the National Assembly that France had made "coherent" pro-

Earlier article, Page 7

Newsstand Prices

Pages 8-9.

Pages 18-19.

posals to ease tensions.

Books.

own forces, the U.S. Trident submarines submerged in

the world's oceans, these specialists said.
Russia has not launched an early-warning satellite in nearly a year, they said, and U.S.-Russian plans for sharing early-warning data, announced in September by Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, have not been implemented. Such cooperation involves highly sophisticated equipment and the transfer of ultrasensitive military information, analysts say, and a

legacy of distrust persists on both sides.

Although the Cold War has ended, Russia and the United States remain on constant nuclear alext. Both sides say that if attacked they will unleash massive retaliation, even before enemy warheads arrive; the strategy is intended to discourage any first strike.

But the threat of retaliation requires accurate early warning, and without it, Russian decision-makers are blindfolded. Some Western specialists believe the growing gaps in the area covered by Russia's earlywarning satellites have increased the risks of a serious miscalculation, as Russian commanders will have less time to decide whether a report of a launching is real.

There have been several close calls. In September 1983, the Soviet early-warning system sent a false signal to ground stations that a U.S. missile attack was under way. After a few anxious minntes deep in a Soviet defense bunker, the mistake was recognized by an officer on duty. In another case that highlights the

See RUSSIA, Page 10

Clinton Confident As Trial Nears End

President Is Looking Ahead; 2 Republicans Break Ranks

By Brian Knowlton ational Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON - With the end of his impeachment trial possibly 24 hours away, President Bill Clinton remained open to a possible censure on Wednesday, but he hoped to move ahead quickly afterward, working with Republicans and Democrats to advance a very ambitious public agenda," his

In the first public break from the majority party, meanwhile, two Republican senators announced that they would vote against conviction on both

articles of impeachment Those signs of Republican defection increased the chances that the two articles of impeachment might not even reach a majority of 51 votes, let alone

the two-thirds majority for conviction. The president's spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said that Mr. Clinton was likely to make a brief public comment

once the Senate completed those votes. The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott of Mississippi, said he hoped to conclude debate by 5 P.M. on Thursday "if at all possible," with the votes oo the two impeachment articles to follow immediately.

"If we still have speeches and we can't do it then we will certainly go over to Friday." Mr. Lott said before the start of Wednesday's session, "but I think we need to begin to talk about that

Mr. Lockhart said President Clinton remained "open to the idea" of censure. But while many senators favor some statement of condemnation for Mr. Clinton's cooduct in trying to mislead Americans and conceal his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the prospects for a censure motion appeared to dwindle

"I'd say it's doubtful right now," the Senate Democratic leader, Tom-Daschle of South Dakota, said of the chances of a direct vote on censure before the Senate adjourns Friday for a weeklong recess.

Censure faces stern opposition from some conservative Republicans, who say that such a step is not provided for in the U.S. Constitution. With "even three or four people committed to filibus-tering censure," said Senator Charles Grassley, Republican of Iowa, "it just is impossible to get it."

Mr. Lockhart declined to comment on reports that the Justice Department was investigating the office of the in-dependent counsel, Kenneth Starr, regarding its initial contacts with lawyers for Paula Jones, whose harassment suit against Mr. Clinton first brought the name of Monica Lewinsky before the public. (Page 3)

The Senate, in the final stage of the impeachment trial, resumed its closed-door deliberations on Wednesday, after hearing from about 18 senators on Tues-

If the debate concludes Thursday afternoon, votes on whether to convict or acquit Mr. Clinton of the articles of impeachment, for perjury and obstruc-tion of justice, would follow at once.

Acquittal is considered a virtual certainty; all but one of the 45 Democrats voted earlier to dismiss the case, and conviction can be blocked by 34 votes. Senator Lott, in the courtly tones he

has used throughout the trial, enjouned fellow senators not to discuss their deliberations publicly But one Republican senator, James Jeffords of Vermont, announced on

He predicted that at least six other Republicans, and possibly as many as 12, would join him.

CNN that he would vote against both

See CLINTON, Page 3

	The Dollar	
New York	Wednesday @ 4 P.M.	previous clase
Euro	1.1335	1,1306
Pound	1,627	1,6379
Yen	114.45	114.125
DM	1,7262	1.7301
FF	5.7901	5.8024
Dollars per p	ound and per ouro.	
	The Dow	
	Wednesday close	percent change
+ 44.28	9,177.31	+ 0.48%
T	S&P 500	-
+7.41	1,223.55	+ 0.61%
	Nasdad	,
*		
1.28	2,309.51	- 0.06%

Britain Gets A Warning On Slowing Of Economy

By Tom Buerkle

LONDON - The Bank of England said Wednesday that the British economy was flirting with recession, a stark downgrading of its outlook that fueled expectations of further interest-rate reductions in the months ahead.

The bank, which only six months ago was warning about a possible upsurge in inflation because of strong growth, predicted that the growth of Britain's gross domestic product — the value of its goods and services — would be close to zero in the first half of this year before recovering with the aid of recent interest-rate cuts.

Growth in gross domestic product—which fell to 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter, the slowest rate in more than six years - should average between 0.5 percent and 1 percent for all of 1999. and return to its long-term trend of around 2.5 percent the following year. the bank said.

The bank's forecast comes amid growing concern about the slowing economies of continental Europe. Germany, a day after reporting that joblessness had surged to 11.5 percent, said Wednesday that its trade surplus narrowed in December to its lowest level in almost two years. (Page 13)

The sober oew outlook, contained in the central bank's quarterly inflation report, amounted to the closest thing to an admission of error that a central bank is likely to give. It hrought the bank closer into line with the forecasts of business economists and financial analysts, and explained the bank's recent zeal for cutting interest rates. The bank surprised many analysts last week by cutting its key short-term rate by one-half percentage point, to 5.5 per-

At the same time, the bank indicated that some members of its Monetary Policy Committee believe rates still remain too high because of strong disinflationary pressures in the British and world economies.

The Bank of England's announcement had little effect on financial markets, where many investors said they had already anticipated slowing

Six months ago, the bank was forecasting growth of 1.5 percent this year even though rates at the time were standing at a lofty 7.5 percent.

"They've been very slow to recog-

East Timorese Leader **Leaves Prison for Talks**

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

JAKARTA — With a smile, a wave and a clenched fist defiantly thrust in the air, the East Timorese resistance leader Xanana Gusmao emerged from prison Wednesday to be driven to a newly refurbished bungalow in Jakarta, where he begins a role at the center of negotiations over the future independence of his homeland.

Mr. Gusmao has been in prison since

he was captured by Indonesian troops in 1992, while he was leading the Fre-tilin guerrilla movement fighting the occupation of East Timor. His life sentence was later compart of a deal with government officials

muted to 20 years, but he was moved Wednesday to a form of house arrest as to allow him to take part in newly accelerated talks - also involving the United Nations and Timor's former colonial power, Portugal — aimed at resolving the conflict. Indonesia claimed the territory in 1976, a year after Portugal left.

If East Timor is eventually granted its independence—and the indonesian government has said that this is a possibility if an aotonomy offer is rejected - then Mr. Gusmao, 52, a Jesuittrained poet, is widely considered most likely to become the new nation's first president.

His move from prison to house ar-rest leaves him in custody, but it was an unmistakable sign of how far Indonesia has moved in its willingness to abandon a part of its territory and to open a dialogue with a man once con-

house, surrounded by cheering sup-porters with a large flag of independent East Timor, was another startling reminder of the changes that have swept Indonesia since the fall of President Suharto last year ushered in a period of

sidered to be a dangerous separatist. The scene of Mr. Gusmao at his new

openness and democratic reform. When he arrived at his new home. surrounded by a crush of journalists and supporters, Mr. Gusmao urged a

See TIMOR, Page 4



Xanana Gusmao raising his fist in an East Timorese rebel salute as he was escorted out of prison Wednesday to a ministry house in Jakarta.

that wind through the West.

swelling, fast

American Retirees Hear the Call of the Open Road

By Rene Sanchez

SLAB CTTY, California - The skies are bright, the beer is cold, and the doors of sand-swept motor homes and trailers strewn all over this baked and barren desert outpost are creaking open. Here come the Loners on Wheels, all gray-haired, all single, shuffling over to another afternoon happy hour in the middle of

By the dozens, cloh members gather near clumps of tumbleweed as drinks and tales start to flow. They are one brigade in a growing army of retirees who spend their time roaming highways across the West, and this is their latest stop. An American flag the gang raised high over its makeshift camp when it pulled up snaps and twists in the stiff desert wind.

"I've been doing this full-time since '91," Irma Ruth boasts as she and two friends, all in their sixties, lean against the back of a muddy rig. "There's such freedom living this way.'

"You realize you don't need all your stuff," chimes Josi Roth. "And there's so much to discover." Elwood Wilson asks: "You think we just want to sit

around rocking a hole in the floor?"

He takes a long swig from a dented can of Milwankee's Best. "Hell, no." They are rebels and lonely hearts, misfits and wan-derers, Beats on Medicare, wrinkled Easy Riders whose grown children just don't understand. And every last one of them is out to defy what getting old in

America often means. Retirement homes, days and nights in the haze of television, playing host to endless Sundays at

There are now health insurance plans, Weh sites and

See AT HOME, Page 4

D.H. Lawrence called "the great borne of the soul," the open road. And especially the majestic highways

There is no firm count on how many seniors are on

Memberships in national clubs for elderly roadsters

the Loners on Wheels, the Wandering Individuals

Network, Birds of a Feather - are climbing. Another

group, the Escapees, has twice as many members, 30,000, as it did a decade ago.

the road year-round passing through campsites like the one here, hot academics studying the culture suggest there are well over a million. And their ranks are

See BRITAIN, Page 10

A Russian's Roulette / How the West Won a Reprieve

When the Nuclear Alarms Went Off, He Guessed Right

By David Hoffman Washington Post Service

OSCOW — It was just past midnight as Stanislav Petrov settled into the commander's chair inside the secret bunker at Serpukhov-15, the installation where the Soviet Union monitored its early-warning satellites over the United States.

Then the alarms went off. On the panel in front him was a red pulsating button. One word flashed: "Start."

It was Sept. 26, 1983, and Mr. Petrov was playing a principal role in one of the most harrowing incidents of the nuclear age - a false

alarm signaling a U.S. missile attack.

Although it was virtually unknown to the West at the time, the false alarm at the closed military facility south of Moscow occurred during one of the most tense periods of the Cold War. And the episode resonates today because Russia's early-warning system has fewer than half the satellites it did back then, raising the specter of more such dangerous incideots.

As Mr. Petrov described it in an interview, a Soviet satellite sent a signal to the bunker that a ouclear missile attack was under way. The warning system's computer, weighing the signal against static, concluded that a missile had been launched from a base in the

The responsibility fell to Mr. Petrov, then a 44-year-old lieutenant colonel, to make a decision: Was it for real?

He was situated at a criocal point in the chain of command, overseeing a staff that monitored incoming signals from the satel-

lites. He reported to superiors at warning-system headquarters; they, in turn, reported to the general staff, which would consult with the Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov, on the possibility of launching a retaliatory attack.

Mr. Petrov's role was to evaluate the incoming data. At first, the satellite reported that one missile had been launched - then another, and another. Soon, the system was "roaring," he recalled: five Minuteman intercontinental hallistic missiles had been launched, it reported.

decision and today is a long-forgotten pensioner living in a town missiles until some minutes after the satellites had.

He spoke openly about the incident, although the official account is still considered secret by authorities here.

On the night of the crisis, Mr. Petrov had little time to think. When the alarms went off, he recalled, "for 15 seconds, we were in a state of shock. We needed to understand, what's next?"

Usually, he said, one report of a lone rocket launching did not immediately go up the chain to the general staff and the electronic command system there, known as Krokus. But in this case, the reports of a missile salvo were coming so quickly that an alert had already gone to general staff headquarters automatically, even before he could judge if they were genuine. A determination by the general staff was critical because, at the time, the nuclear "suitcase" that gives a Soviet leader a remote-control role in such decisions was still under development.

N THE END, less than five minutes after the alert began, Mr. Petrov decided that the launching reports must be false. He recalled making the tense decision under enormous stress electronic maps and consoles were flashing as he held a phone in one hand and juggled an intercorn in the other, trying to take in all the information at once. Another officer at the early-warning facility was shouting into the phone to him to remain calm and do

"I had a funny feeling in my gut," Mr. Petrov said. 'I didn't want to make a mistake, I made a decision, and that was it." His decision was based partly on a guess, he recalled. He had been told many times that a nuclear attack would be massive, an onslanght designed to overwhelm Soviet defenses at a single stroke. But the monitors showed only five missiles. "When people start a war, they don't start it with only five missiles," he remembered thinking at the time. "You can do little damage with just five missiles.

Another factor, he said, was that Soviet ground-based radar Despite the electronic evidence, Mr. Petrov decided - and installations, which search for missiles rising above the horizon, advised the others — that the satellite alert was a false alarm. It was showed no evidence of an attack. The ground radar units were preparations for an attack.

a call that may have averted a nuclear holocaust. But he was controlled from a different command center and, because they relentlessly interrogated afterward, was never rewarded for his cannot see beyond the horizon, they would not spot incoming

Following the false alarm, Mr. Petrov went through a second ordeal. At first, he was praised for his actions. But then came an investigation, and his questioners pressed him hard. Why had he not written everything down that night? "Because I had a phone in one: hand and the intercom in the other and I don't have a third hand,"

R. PETROV, who was assigned to the satellite early warning system at its inception in the 1970s, said in the interview that he knew the system had flaws. It had-been rushed into service, he said, and was 'raw.' He said the investigators tried to make him a scapegoat for the false alarm. In the end, he was neither punished nor rewarded.

According to him and other sources, the false alarm was even-tually traced to the satellite, which picked up the sun's reflection off the tops of clouds and mistook it for a missile launching. The computer program that was supposed to filter ont such information

It is not known what happened at the highest levels of the Kremlin on the night of the alarm, but it came at a climactic stage in U.S.-Soviet relations that is now regarded as a Soviet "war"

According to a former CIA analyst, Peter Pry, and a separate study by the agency, Mr. Andropov was obsessed with the possibility of a surprise nuclear attack by the West and sent instructions to Soviet spies around the world to look for evidence of prep-One reason for Soviet jitters at the time was that the West had

unleashed a series of psychological warfare exercises aimed at Moscow, including naval maneuvers into forward areas near Sovief strategic bastions, such as the submarine bases in the Barents Sea. The 1983 alarm also came just weeks after Soviet pilots had shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007 and just before the start of a NATO military exercise, known as Able Archer, that involved raising alert levels of U.S. nuclear forces in Europe to simulate

Will the New Century Get to London on Time?

Its New Transport Line Is Late and Over Budget

By Tom Buerkle

.)NDON — For commuters used to . _ Jim, narrow, crowded platforms and tunnels of the Londoo Underground, the station nearing completioo at the Canary Wharf office complex in East Londoo is a revelation of the possibilities of modern mass transit.

The curved greeo glass entrance canopy feeds into a cavernous 1,030-footlong (314-meter) station, large enough to fill the 50-story Canary Wharf tower

— Britain's tallest building — if stood
upright. Natural light pours down to
track platforms 69 feet below ground. and the curved concrete roof conveys an impression of eogineering strength and architectural elegance.
'The sheer volume and the space —

it's almost cathedral-like," said David Nelson, the Foster & Partners architect who designed the stadoo.

This temple of 21st-century transportation lies along a 10-mile eastern ex-tension of the Underground's Juhilee Line that is to link central London with Canary Wharf and the nearby Millennium Dome. The extension promises to revitalize wide areas of East London and be a shot io the arm to the world's oldest subway system.

When it opens.

Therein lies the problem weighing heavily on Underground managers and

Therein lies the problem weighing heavily on Underground managers and the British government.

Tunneling problems and disputes with electricians delayed the opening planned for 1998 and have driven the cost 50 percent above budget, to an estimated £2.9 billion (\$4.75 billion). Now, construction crews are racing to finish before the end of this year.

Faiture to do so would be a disaster for the Millennium Dome, a festival site costing £750 million that is relying on the line to bring 35,000 visitors a day.

Saying there was "every doubt" whether the extension would open before the dome did, Richard Ottoway, transportation spokesman for the opposition Conservative Party, warned the House of Commons last week that Britain would be "the laughingstock of the world" if the extension was not running by the end of the year. Transportation officials were four crossings under the River Thames. more upbeat, but they aren't yet willing to guarantee an opening date, talking instead of opening the extension, in three

Correction

"The present experience is clearly adverse," Mr. Tunnicliffe said. "We're ment of shares in the French insurer AXA. The shares rose 109.8 percent from Oct. 10, 1997 to Jan. 29 of this year. The table also did not reflect the company's oew name, which took effect Jan. 1.

phases, by late autumn,

John Reid, the transport minister, said the government was "determined" that the full line would open before 2000. Denis Tunnicliffe, chief executive of London Transport, the agency that runs the Uoderground, estimated it would be fully open in October or November, with a key test this spring when the easternmost section is due to enter service.

"There's always a risk," Mr.
Tunnicliffe said, But, be said, "I am
more confident of that program than I
think I have said have ""

think I have ever been.

His confidence stems from two hig changes. As delays mounted in the fall, London Transport drafted Bechtel Inc. to take charge. The U.S. engineering company brought oew energy and expertise to the joh, and it knows its reputation is on the line.

"We'll get it done," said Clifford Mumm, the Bechtel executive supervising the project.

Mr. Mumm noted that all technical problems had to be resolved by this spring for the first section to open and

Using tactics that Britons like to think have been banished from this side of the English Channel, the electricians went on strike for two weeks in November and since then have been working at less than full speed. The new deal offers producovity-related bonuses of as much as 34 percent of hourly wages and £2,266 for each worker upon completioo.

Chris Raven, a Drake & Scull ex-ecutive, said, "It certainly gives us a good chance."

Project managers plead for under-standing about the delays and bristle at comparisons with the Meteor line that opened last year in Paris. While the Meteor was a relatively shallow, cut-and-fill construction job, most of the Jubilee extension required difficult tunneling at depths of as much as 100 feet, including the rebuilding of Westminster station underneath the Houses of Parliament and

But the problems could derail plans for further expansion of the 243-mile (391-kilometer) Underground system that executives say will be vital to keep this city moving in the new millennium.

table in Saturday's editions of The late, and it's going to cost significantly Money Report misstated the price movemore than hudget." But when travelers "experience what a 21st-century underground is compared to a 19th-century underground," he said, "then I think pressure will increase" for more ex-

TRAVEL UPDATE

Strike Set for Sunday On London's Subway

LONDON (Reuters) — Staff on London's Underground are going shead with a two-day strike over job security after talks broke down Wednesday.

The strike will start at 6 P.M. Sunday

and run until late evening the following Tuesday.
"There will be severe disruption to the network, starting on Sunday night

but building up over the next two days."
a spokesman for the Rail, Maritime and Transport union said. The union, which represents 6,300 of the Underground's 15,000 employees, called the strike over the possibility of dismissals as a result of the government's

decision to partly privatize the system.

American Air Cancels 900 More of Its Flights

DALLAS (AP) - American Airlines asked a U.S. judge to order its pilots to calling in sick in a dispote that forced the carrier on Wednesday to cancel 900 more flights around the world.

AMR Corp., the airline's parent comoany, asked U.S. District Judge Joe

Kendall for a temporary restraining or-der and asked that the pilots be held in cootempt of court if they continued to call in sick. (Page 11)

An airline lawyer, Dee Kelly, also

asked for damages, saying that American was losing money every day that the 'sick-out' continued. The latest strife between American

and its pilots has oow grounded about 2,500 flights since Saturday. American says that an average of 100 passengers are affected by each canceled flight, putting the total at around 150,000 pasngers affected by the job action.

Airlines Would Pay

Stranded Passengers WASHINGTON (AP) - Airlines

like those that kept passengers stranded on snowbound tarmacs this winter would have to pay heavy fines under the latest proposal to increase passenger rights. Representative Bud Shuster, a Pennsylvania Republican and chairman of the House Transportation Committee, lanned to include the requirement in

legislation to be filed Wednesday.

Under his bill, airlines that held passengers for two hours would have to repay them twice the value of their ticket, passengers held for three hours would receive three times the value of their ocket, and so forth.

Airlines have said that they cannot be held accountable for bad weather or the unavailability of gates.

About 500 skiers will be asked to submit to an alcohol test on the slopes of Davos, a ski resort in northeast Switzerland, the Office for Accident Prevention in Bern said Wednesday.

Greens' Refusal to Compromise Puts Strain on German Coalition

BONN — A major rift appeared in Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's coalition Wednesday as Greens politicians refused to compromise on a plan to relax the country's bloodline-based citizen-

Mr. Schroeder, in turn, accused the ecologist Greens of weakening the coalition by pursuing a too radical

Mr. Schroeder acknowledged Tues-day that a surprise election defeat for the Social Democrats and Greens in the state of Hesse on Sunday meant his coalition would have to seek a compromise with rightist parties, which oppose the original reform plan.

But the Greens rejected Mr. Schroeder's offer of cooperation with passed this summer; would have to in-opposition parties to weaken the pro-clude "clear limits" on dual citizen-Schroeder's offer of cooperation with: posal, which at the moment reflect the ship.

Greens' liberal policy on naturalization.

The Greens interior affairs spokes—

available indefinitely to foreigners, but

Turkish immigrants, said a compromise the Sueddentsche Zeitung.

with the conservative Christian Democratic Union was out of the question as long as they continued a campaign against dual nationality.
"The CDU is not capable of doing

husiness on this," he told German radio. The CDU campaign against the reform was seen as a major factor in swinging the Hesse election in their favor.

The Greens insist the hill retain provisions allowing widespread dual cit-izenship, the clause the CDU objects to, arguing it discriminates against "na-tive" Germans.

Under the new law, citizenship would be available to around half of Germany's 7.4 million foreign population.

Backtracking from his policy goals, Mr. Schroeder said the hill, due to be

man, Cem Ozdemir, himself the son of rather for a limited time period." he told

300 Are Still Missing: From Sunken Ferry

JAKARTA - Rough seas and strong winds were hampering the search for more than 300 peoplemissing after a ferry sank off central Indonesia over the weekend, officials said Wednesday. 'We haven't received any in-

formation from our crews on the scene," said navy Lieutenaut Hadi Pangestu, citing poor communications in the bad weather. The head of Pontianak port in

West Kalimantan on Borneo said the 100-foot-long Harta Rimba sank around midnight Saturday. 'It was carrying around 325 passengers,'said the port chief, whose name is Zainuddin. "So far an international ship has rescued 19 people including the whip's captain. The captain said he distributed

200 life jackets to passengers, telling the rest to cling to blocks of wood and drums to stay afloat.

WEATHER



WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Resert	-	u	Pa	ns Pis	tes Sh	ate Snow	Comments	Resort	Ĺ	u	Pla	es Pisi	es Sig	te Spor	Comments 12 1
Andorra Soldeu	80	90	Good	Open	Ver	9/2	New snow, powder in the trees	Italy Bornio	20	130	Good	Ореп	Pedr	9/2	Best runs on upper slopes
Austria								Cervinia	80	185	Good	Open	Petr	9/2	Good conditions but high winds
lachol	180	300	Good	Open	Pwdr	9/2	Limited due to avalanche msk	Corting	80	70	Good	Hard	Ver	5/2	All pistes are hard and ky
Kitzbuhel	90	180	Grood	Com	Pack	10/2	Fanissic, namy 100% open	Coumayeur	70	130		Act	Pestr	9/2	Goal string, had some heavy snoy-
Lech	210			Open	Petr	10/2	Run closed due to avelanche dak	Livigno	70	160	Good	Open	Pedr	8/1	Superb siding in protected area."
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Obergurgi	70	270	Good	Орип	Pedr	10/2	New wrow, avalanche risk								from moon
Scal	110	1880	Good	Open	Pectr	9/2	Very good conditions, 100% open	Kerway	_						
St. Anton	150	480	Apod	Open	Peetr	10/2	Heavy snowfall has limited little	Geilo	70	70	Good	Open	Ver	42	Great elding on some fresh snow,
Canada						_		Switzerland	_			<u> </u>			
Laice Louise			Ggod	Open	Peck	2/2	SIE snowing, great powder	Crans Montana	450	***	Good				-201
Whistler	300	353	Good	Ober	Pwdr	112	Masses of Show, all open	Davos			Good	Ореп		9/2	New entry, evalenche risk.
France								Klosters			Good	Open	Peter	92	Excellent show cover
Alpe d'Huez	190	200	Good	Osen	Petr	9/2	Mary Ma about do to his of the	Murren				Open	Parck	9/2	
Les Arcs			Good	Open	Pectr		Many life closed due to high winds	Saas Fae	140		Good	Open	Petr	9/2	Brilliant in the Junglau region "
LOS ALLO	200	JUL	9000	oper	r wy	-	Lówer mas greet; avalanche risk at alliacie	St. Moritz	50		Good	Open	Pack	92	Much closed this week
Avoriaz	205	230	Gast	Osen	Pectr	929	Great snow cover and string	Verbler	80		Good	Open	Petr	9/2	Af its open, great conditions
Chamonix		390		Open	Peetr		Assignate risk olipias	Wengen	120		Good	Ореп	Pactr	8/2	TOWER OF MARK BONDER
Counthevel			Good	Open	Peede	9/2	Life opening as conditions inprove	Zematt	80		Good	Open	Pectr	9/2	Late of new snow; not much open.
Les Deux Alpee				Open	Peetr	9/2	New arrow, lower pistes open	Ziginjan	80	200	Good	Open	Petr	92	Excellent snow; dempting weether "
Flaine			Good	Conn	Peetr	92	Much closed due to avatenche risks	U.S.							5.05
Megeve			Good	Open	Peetr		Good powder snow	Aspen	105	130	Good	Open	Peetr	8/2	
Méribel			Good	Open	Peetr		High winds and avalanche denger	Breckenridge			Good	Coan		7/2	Good show conditions
La Piagne			Good	Open	Purch		Over 40cm new snow, greet sking					Open	rou	114	
St. Gervais			Good	Open	Peetr		New anow, lits opening gradually	Crested Butte	123	140	Good	Coun	Pectr	772	powder conditions All this open, good skiling
Serre Chevaller	80	50	Good	Coto	Peetr		Much better after recent new short	Deer Valley	200	207	Good			82	Great conditions are in this wast
Tiones			Good	Coso	Peetr		Amazing powder, avalenche threats	Mammoth	150	230	Good	Coun			Great conditions again this week Lots of new snow; stormy weather
_							higher up		200	100	Good	Open			New such and blood signal
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Val Thorens	180	230	Gapt	Open	Pectr	9/2	Great snow levels, exclanate threat	Winter Park	117	150	Good	Ореп			Meetly of theory open, good skiling
Germany Germisch	70	110	Good	Open	Petr	9/2	480cm snow on glacier, recent snow	Key:L.,U: Depits in an leading to resort village	on i	regr	and spor	rsigoes. Tow. St	Min. P	letter file.	artainside plates, Rose, Pietos Rafid Chip of Great Britain/www.offworki.est

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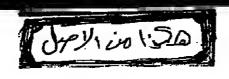
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granten at its inception in the 1970s, said its me the knew the system had flows to ew that he knew the system had flaws he ished into service, he said, and was "raw" strigators tried to make him a scapegoa for and he was neither punished nor rewarded m and other sources, the false alarm was ne satellite, which picked up the sun's reflecting and missook it for a missile launching to that was supposed to filter out such information

a what happened at the highest levels of ht of the alarm, but it came at a climactic state one that is now regarded as a Sovier

former CIA analyst, Peter Pry, and a sense sey; Mr. Andropov was obsessed with the party; Mr. Andropov was obsessed with the party and sense services. e nuclear attack by the West and sem instruct wand the world to look for evidence of the

Soviet jitters at the time was that the West s of psychological warfare exercises aime g neval maneuvers into forward areas near los such as the submarine bases in the Barens also came just weeks after Soviet pilots hat Lines Flight 007 and just before the stand mercise, known as Able Archer, that invoke is of U.S. nuclear forces in Europe to sime

300 Are Still Missing

From Sunken Ferry

JAKARTA - Rough seas a

strong winds were hampeings

search for more than 300 page

missing after a ferry sank offer.

Indonesia over the weeked &

We haven't received myt;

scene," said navy Lieutenaule

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The head of Pontianak put

West Kalimantan en Bomeeg

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around midnight Saturday, "to

carrying around 325 passens

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victory, time was passing them by.
With President Bill Clinton's acquittal certain later this week, impeachment is rapidly moving out of the trial phase and into the realm of pure politics. After

guilty, not proved."

mposed restrictions.

vindication of their work.

ing or claim of vindication.

behavior," the spokesman said.

By Alison Mitchell

New York Tunes Service

voted to keep its final deliberations on

impeachment closed, the proponents of

secrecy argued one last time that Amer-

ican juries always make their decisions

in private. Yet, even as they scored a

Continued from Page 1

first Republican to declare opposition to both ar-

,A political moderate, Mr. Jeffords became the

Mr. Specter said he would exercise his right to

House prosecutors' hands had been tied by Senate-

if Democrats vote as a bloc - and no more than

one or two defections are expected, at most - that

could prevent either article from gaining even a

The 13 House "managers" have said they hope

."A failure to get 50 votes would be significant,"

aid Senator Robert Torricelli, Democat of New

"Failure to get 50 votes undermines the cred-

ibility of the entire impeachment process."

The expected acquittal would remove the year-

long peril to Mr. Clinton's presidency, if not the

But Republicans, and some Democrats, will

The president's reaction, Mr. Lockhart said, will

be measured and grave, amounting to 'relief and an anxiousness to continue doing the job that he's been

"He understands the wrongful nature of his

Mr. Lockhart told reporters that the president

"Well, I don't know that you Conservative Republicans, including Senator that none of this ever happened."

prevent censure from coming to the Senate floor, at repeatedly: "It's the people's business that comes

least until after the weeklong recess. Such a delay, first and in order to do the people's business, the

was "open to the idea of censure" hat would not

Phil Gramm of Texas, appear to have the clout to

some senators say, would be tantamount to cen-

"The push for censure is losing steam," said to do that."

watch carefully for even the slightest sign of crow-

for at least one article to pass by a majority as

"not proved" to both articles, saying the

Another Republican, Senator Arlen Specter of honor the Pennsylvania, citing the laws of Scotland, said where could be "three possible verdicts: guilfy, not rescind the senator Arlen Specter of honor the pennsylvania, citing the laws of Scotland, said pennsylvania, citing the laws of Scotland, citing the laws of Scotl

begun their effort, for both the 2000 Mr. Clinton's impeachment to win con- said that he wanted to make the condoct minutes and Kennedy's first inaugural what the impeachment drive of the past WASHINGTON — As the Senate year was all about. Mr. Clinton has almost two years left

the yearlong scandal over the president's the 1868 trial of President Andrew John-

Senator Bill Prist, Republican of Tennessee.
But Mr. Jeffords and another moderate Republican, Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine, now support censure, after authors of a proposed mea-

are added wording that arged future Congresses to

honor the reprimand, The New York Times re-

Some advocates fear that a censure could be rescinded by a future Congress, as happened in the case of President Andrew Jackson.

include a new expression of contrition. The pres-

dent was in western Virginia on Wednesday for a

private meeting with House Democrats at an annual

Democrats, while exhausted by the yearlong Lewinsky drama, have watched with some

amazement as their party has emerged strengthened, with growing public support, while Republicans have been so badly bruised that some

analysts say they now risk losing control of Con-

A new opinion survey by the Gallup Organization, for CNN and USA Today, found that 77

percent of Americans now believed that the Clinton

presidency had been a success, as against only 20

well Democrats and Republicans, their relations

sorely strained by the impeachment proceedings in

the House and the trial in the Senate, will be able to

work together in the two years remaining of Mr.

turn a page on impeachment as soon as the final

votes were cast, and work with Republicans and

Democrats on what h e called "a very ambitious

Asked whether it was possible to rise above the

Well, I don't know that you can ever pretend

impeachment-poisoned atmosphere, Mr. Lockhart

He said, however, that Mr. Clinton had said

president has to work with Democrats and Re-

publicans in the House and in the Senate. He plans

Mr. Lockhart insisted that Clinton was ready to

Bot many Americans have doubts about how

percent who rated it a failure.

Mr. Clinton's expected statement is likely to

CLINTON: President Looks Ahead to a New Agenda

campaign and for history, to explain trol of the House and possibly even the of the independent counsel, Kenneth All of these calculations are now com-

Parties Look for Ways to Deal With Impeachment's Aftermath

ing into play in the endgame of this trial. to try to find some major achievements For that reason it was only Republicans that could counterbal- on Tuesday who voted to keep delibance for history the scan- erations closed. Although many said ANALYSIS

dal that followed his they thought the senators might yet sway sexual encounters with a each other, others said that they were White House intern. Republicans are trying to cut off partisan posturing and searching for a way to defy the verdict of keep the Democrats from using their current public opinion and have this speeches to stoke a backlash against impeachment judged more kindly than Republicans. Republicans.
Senator John Kerry, Democrat of

inffair with Monica Lewinsky and five son, which is viewed today as a partisan Massachusetts, who is weighing a presmonths of congressional impeachment vendetta. And congressional Democrats idential bid, showed just what the Reproceedings, the political parties have are hoping to ride the public anger over publicans were looking to avoid when he

Starr, a critical element of the final de-

"All we have in front of us is a crime, so-called, that arose out of a private consensual affair," he told reporters, and I think most Americans understand that that crosses the zone of privacy that has serious implications for constitutional rights and fairness. 1 think that is a part of this case." The Republicans by contrast want to

change the subject fast. Senator Trent Lott, the majority lead-

er, urged senators as they deliberate to remember "that Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address in less than three

was slightly over seven minutes."

To show they are ready to move beond impeachment, the Republicans have bills ready to move on military salaries and education and are poised to begin a debate over tax entting. "We need to pivot and go on and get the impeachment behind us and start really talking about the business that people do care about," the new House speaker, Representative Dennis Hasiert of Illinois, said in an interview on CNN. He also said that ''Congress, if we're going to get anything done, has to work with the president.

But before Congress can move on, there is one last impeachment issue to resolve: whether to censure Mr. Clinton, and here, too, longer-term political ques-tions, as well as constitutional ones, are being calculated.

Most of the proponents of censure are Democrats who want to make a statemeot that their vote to acquit Mr. Clinton does not mean they condone his be-

"If he's acquitted, and I think he will be, there will be those who say that those of os who voted for acquittal exonerate his conduct," said Senator Richard Durbin, Democrat of Illinois, "and that's not true.

And so intent are they on censuring Mr. Clinton that some Democrats are threatening that they will keep trying to attach such a rebuke to pending legislation throughout the spring if Repub-

licans do not agree to censure this week. Senator Robert Torricelli, Democrat of New Jersey, who is the head of the Democrats' 2000 election effort, said this would hurt the Republicans. "It becomes very hard for them to explain why they were so incensed they wanted to remove the president from office and won't provide the others even a vote on a censure resolution," he said. "They are increasingly in a situation where they cannot extricate themselves or explain

Despite Mr. Torricelli's confidence, there are other Democrats and Republicans alike who believe Mr. Clinton's currently high joh approval ratings may well fall once he no longer seems uoder

threat of removal hy Coogress. One senior Senate Republican staff member noted that in October 1991, during confirmation hearings, the American public believed Justice Clarence

A year later, he said, the public had changed its mind and come to believe Anita Hill's account of sexual harass-

So, a growing chorus of Republicans and conservatives are saying that their party should not join the censure effort and thus give Democrats an insurance



Senator Trent Lott, the majority leader, waving on his way Wednesday to the deliberations on Mr. Clinton. policy in case public opinion changes.

Away From Politics

 More than eight feet of snow oo the Sierra Nevada in four days closed Interstate 80 and triggered voluntary evacuations at parts of Lake Tahoe amid fear of avalanches. Several roads were shut because of vehicle spinouts and near-blizzard conditions. Hundreds of workers were sent home early in Reno, Carson City and other cities. (AP)

 College fraternities must start accepting womeo members, Dartmouth College has decided. President James Wright said the decision to have the fraternities go coed — and the school's sororities, too — is intended to encourage "respectful relations between women and meo" and is part of an overhaul of life at the New Hampshire Ivy League school.

 The leading weight-loss programs in the United States have voluntarily agreed to disclose information to consumers about the costs and risks associated with their diet plans. Under the guidelines, the companies will warn customers that weight loss after the first two or three weeks of dieting should not exceed three pounds (one and a half kilograms) a week.

Reno Sets A Plan to Investigate Starr Team

By David Johnston and Don Van Natta Jr. New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - The Justice Department has decided to begin an inquiry to determine whether Kenneth Starr's prosecutors misled Attorney General Janet Reno about possible conflicts of interest wheo they obtained permussion to investigate the Lewinsky matter in January 1998, according to government officials.

Among other concerns, the in-quiry will focus on whether the prosecutors were truthful when they asserted that there had been no contacts between Mr. Starr's office and the Paula Jones legal team in the weeks leading up to Mr. Starr's decisioo to ask Ms. Reno to expand his inquiry beyond the Whitewater matter, said the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

In recent months, documentation has emerged that indicates there were conversations between a prosecutor in Mr. Starr's office and a lawyer working behind the scenes

with the Jones legal team from November 1997 to January 1998. But a series of newly disclosed notes taken at the initial meetings on Jan. 15 and Jan. 16, 1998, between Mr. Starr's prosecutors and Justice Department officials, show that the prosecutors flatly asserted that there had been no contacts with the Jones

For example, Eric Holder Jr., the' deputy attorney general, wrote in his three pages of notes of a Jan. 15, 1998, meeting with Mr. Start's prosecutors: "They've had no cootaet with plaintiff's attys." Handwritten notes by two other

Justice Department officials, Monty Wilkinson and Josh Hochberg, corroborate the statements attributed to Mr. Starr's prosecutors.

Moreover, notes taken by another participant in the meeting, Steven Bates, a prosecutor in Mr. Starr's office, indicate that Jackie Bennett, one of Mr. Starr's deputies, told the Justice Department officials: "We've had no contact with the plaintiffs' attorneys. We're concerned about appearances."

evidence in the Justice Department inquiry, which will be conducted by the Office of Professional Responsibility, which investigates proseeutorial misconduct. The lawyers' notes became public just last mooth as part of the Senate record of documents related to the impeachment trial of the president. The truthfulness of Mr. Starr's

prosecutors is one of several issues that the department wants to examine, the government officials Lawyers in the ethics office also

intend to investigate whether Mr. Starr abused his authority to convene grand juries or improperly pressed witnesses, like Monica Lewinsky, and disclosed secret grand jury information to the news media, the officials said.

POLITICAL

Modest Tax Cut Proposed

WASHINGTON - Casting doubt on the viability of one of their party's main goals this year, a group of moderate House Republicans plans to reject calls for a sweeping income tax reduction and instead is building support for a more modest package of tax cuts, according to

congressional aides The group of 11, led by Nancy Johnson of Connecticut, was to introduce a plan Wed-nesday that will scale back the so-called marriage penalty paid by many two-income couples; raise the amount of income that retirees can earn without losing Social Security benefits, and enact other changes that would cut taxes by \$100 billion over five years.

The plan is intended as an alternative to one being developed by John Kasich of Ohio, the

chairman of the Budget Committee, that would cut income tax rates by 10 percent. If fully enacted at once, such a cut would reduce revenues by around \$375 billion over five years.

The move is the first effort by Republican moderates to flex their muscle this year in the House. Republican leaders in both the House and Senate have been trying to rally the party around an income tax reduction at the top of their post-impeachment agenda.

Clinton Thanks Caucus

WASHINGTON -- In a closed-door session with House Democrats at their retreat in Wintergreen, Virginia, President Bill Clinton has expressed his gratitude to lawmakers in what apparently was an implicit thank you for their support on impeachment.

Participants said that Mr. Clinton, who did oot directly mention the impeachment issue, told the approximately 100 lawmakers that he wanted to help them win back the House next year.

He also said he was determined that Richard Gephardt of Missouri, the minority leader, would become the next speaker, and he praised Mr. Gephardt for deciding not to challenge Vice President Al Gore for the Democratic presidential nomination next year. The enthusiastic welcome he received from

House Democrats marked a departure from their often frosty relations in the past. House Democrats have long complained that the president was oot particularly interested in working with them. Many of them also have groused that Mr. Clintoo has worked more closely with Republicans on Capitol Hill. But impeachment led many of Mr. Clinton's old foes in the Democratic Party to rally behind him. (NYT)

FBI Assisted Chile in '70s, Documents Show

By Tim Weiner New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The tried to track suspected associates of Chilean leftists from 1973 to 1990. in the United States in the 1970s on behalf of the goverament of General Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean dictator, newly declassified doc- that had long existed between uments show.

The FBI sent agents in New York and Dallas to search for two people whose names had been found in the address beek of a courier for an underground Marxist group in Chile, according to the doc-

The courier was arrested in Paraguay in 1975, and Paraguayan police passed on the information to U.S. officials, the records show. The FBI initiated an in-

vestigation in the United States of the aforementioned people and addresses," the FBI's legal attache in Buenos Aires wrote to a Chilean official in June 1975. "I will inform you of the results of the investigation as soon as I have them in hand."

Nothing came of the FBI investigations detailed in the documents. The bureau could not find the people and closed the case. Their nationalities and whereabouts are unknown.

Still, the records show that the FB1 worked in liaison with the Pinochet government during the mid-1970s. when thousands of Chilean leftists were rounded up and killed. Mr. Pinochet, now 83 and

in London, is awaiting a ruling by Britain's highest court

warrant to face charges of crimes against humanity condition of anonymity said the documents showed a routine form of cooperation

committed during his rule

The arrested Chilean FBI officials who spoke on to Chile, where he disap-

whose address book was scized in Paraguay, Jorge Isaac Fuentes, was sent back peared in a prison, according to Chilean records. Documents on the Fuentes case were made available by

on whether he may be ex-tradited on a Spanish judge's law-enforcement services. The FBl at the request of The New York Times. On Dec. 1, U.S. govern-

would declassify records of Washington's relations with the Pinochet government, and the Spanish authorities pursning Pinochet are keenly interested in seeing those doc-

(Paris)

(Hong Kong)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Tung Orders **Justice Official** To Beijing to **Calm Dispute**

HONG KONG - The chief executive of Hong Kong, Tung Chee-hwa, said Wednesday that he would send his justice secretary to Beijing to help cool a simmering constitutional dispute with the mainland over a Hong Kong court's immigration ruling.

"In the past few days," Mr. Tuog said at a news conference, "I have kept in touch with the central authorities and have arranged for the secretary of jusoce to visit Beijing as my representative to communicate further with relevant departments of the central authorides."

Mr. Tung is sending Elsie Leung, the justice secretary, amid controversy over a Jan. 29 immigration ruling by the region's Court of Final Appeal that opened the door to tens of thousands of main-landers and is threatening the first con-stitutional crisis since Britain handed Hong Kong back to China in July 1997.

The ruling bestows the right to live in the region on illegitimate children of Hong Kong residents and on children born before either parent became a Hong Kong resideot.

Some mainland experts and a top Chinese cabinet official have criticized the ruling, charging that it contravened the Basic Law, Hong Kong's post-colonial constitution.

They also said it challenged decisions by the National People's Congress, the Chinese Parliament, which had barred such children from Hong Kong resid-

Beijing backed off Tuesday, saying it would continue to abide by the "one country, two systems" principle under which Hong Kong is promised a high level of autonomy and judicial independence for 50 years.

Miss Leung is widely expected to explain to mainland authorioes the intricacies of the court ruling and to discuss other matters of legal jurisdiction in her forthcoming Beijing visit.
"They are not simple issues," Mr.

Tung said.
"It may take a bit of time for all the complex issues to be resolved. But I have every confidence that they will be pone unification between China and Tairesolved."

Anwar's Judge Restricts Media

KUALA LUMPUR — The judge in the criminal trial of the former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, ordered news media Wednes-

Judge Augustine Paul, delivering the second blow to Mr. Anwar in as many days, said testimooy that he had given earlier in the day about Prime Minister Mahathir hin Mohamad and former In-spector-General of Police Abdul Rahim Noor was inadmissible.

Judge Augustine also barred news media from reporting Mr. Anwar's state-ments about the two men. "I will instruct the press not to publish all this unless it is proven." he told the court.

On Wednesday, his third day of testi-mony in his corruption trial, Mr. Anwar spoke at length about conversations he had had with Mr. Mahathir and the former police chief before he was dismissed and arrested.

It was the second time during the three-month-old trial that the judge had ordered news media to withhold publication of testimony given in court.

In December, he instructed the media not to print excerpts of an audio tape recording, which a defense lawyer said proved a conspiracy to oust Mr. Anwar, dismissed and arrested in September, sparking and-government protests.

Mr. Anwar has pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of sodomy and corruption and spiracy by associates of Mr. Mahathir.

Continued from Page 1

halt to fighting in his homeland and

asked all sides to be patient while he

began seeking a solution to the dispute.
"I feel that I have been given a very

heavy task, and I have to do it. That's

why I am here," he said. "I feel that with

talks with East Timorese from all sides, I

solving the problems of East Timor is to

He said all sides in the conflict should

Justice Minister Muladi of Indonesia,

who was at the house to greet Mr. Gus-

mao when he arrived, said, "Xanana is

here not only to sit, but also to work, to

help solve the problem of East Timor." Talks in New York this week between

the Indonesian and Portuguese foreign ministers, Ali Alatas and Jaime Gama,

produced the broad outlines of an agree-

ment, but the two sides still differ over a

key point: Portugal insists on a refer-

endum to decide East Timor's fate,

while Indonesia wants to find an al-

ternative method of "consultation" to

Jakarta officials say they fear that a referendum on Timor could be costly.

hard to organize and might touch off fighting among rival Timorese factions.

For the many East Timorese who have

been fighting the independence struggle,

Mr. Gusmao's move to house arrest was

"reduce their enmity or hostility" to

'In my opinion, the priority now in

can create an East Timorese nation.

create a peaceful climate," he said.

make his job easier.

gauge local sentiment.

TIMOR: Resistance Leader Out of Prison

with suspicion.



Police arresting a mainland protester seeking residence rights at the Hong Kong government offices Wednesday.

CHINA: Taiwan Reports a New Deployment of Missiles by Beijing

Continued from Page 1

higuous defense des with Taipei would be seen in Beijing as an attack on Chinese interests

In 1996, the United States and China engaged in a tense standoff over Taiwan when China conducted missile tests near the island and the U.S. government dispatched two aircraft-carrier battle

groups to the region.
The Taiwan Relations Act calls on the U.S. government to sell Taiwan enough weapons to defend itself, but it is vague on whether U.S. troops would defend the

Chinese security analysts view missile defense as a "force multiplier" something that would deny them their main tactical advantage over Taiwan's army. China has a substantial missile threat; Taiwan has little means now to

try director for China in the office of the secretary of defense, said Beijing was also concerned that including the island of 21 million people under the umbrella would embolden Taiwan's fledgling independence movement and further post-

U.S. officials said they had conducted talks in the last six months with Japan day not to report court testimony hy Mr. and South Korea about establishing an Anwar about the prime minister and the former police chief.

anti-missile defense umbrella over these countries but declined to provide more specific details about whether the program would be land-based or sea-based. They have also raised the possibility with Japan that it might help pay for some of the research, the officials said.

trying to contain China

On Jan. 12, Sha Zukang, director general of the Foreign Ministry's arms control and disarmament division, warned in Washington that an American decision to go forward with the missile defense program would touch off a new arms race.

velop "more advanced missiles," Mr. Sha warned. "This will be in nobody's interests," he said. "We wish the United States was taking a more caudous and the wheel.

Randall Schriver, former senior coun-

Finally, U.S. proposals to include South Korea and Japan under the umbrella, which have gone much further than talk about Taiwan, are also bothering Beijing. These proposals were spurred by the firing of a North Korean missile on Aug. 31 that flew over Japan. The flight underscored dramaocally that the 100,000 American troops in Asia are potential targets of North Korean mis-

Chinese analysis have written in recent weeks that they fear the United States is using the furor caused by Pyongyang 's missile test as an exense to expand its security agreements with South Korea and Japan into an ano-Communist bloc. For the first time in more than a year, these analysts are voicing concern that the United States is

It would force other countries 10 de-

this perceived alliance by adopting a Florida condos are making the lifestyle has said he was the victim of a con- more aggressive stance in Asia, particularly loward Taiwan.

some expressed anger that the rebel lead-

er had not been freed and allowed to

return to East Timor, while others

In recent months, Beijing has restar-

ted a drive to extend its reach in the South China Sea, building up what it has called a fishing facility on Mischief Reef in waters claimed by the Philip-

> It also has launched military exercises opposite Taiwan, albeit much smaller than a massive missile-firing drill in March 1996 that prompted the United States to send the two naval battle groups near the Taiwan Strait.

> In a statement Wednesday, Tajwan's Defense Ministry said, "The threat of the Chinese Communists' guided missile tests has an impact not only on the military front but also on the political,

economic and psychological fronts." At the heart of the problem, Western and Chinese analysts say, is a yawning gap between U.S. interests in Asia, elucidated last November in a Pentagon report, and Chinese interests, set out in China's first defense white paper issued

Simply put, the Pentagon argues that the American network of security arrangements and treades is the region's bedrock of stability.

The missile defense system would

strengthen these alliances, Pentagon of-ficials say, and it would also go a long way

ooned in Asia for many years to come.

The Chinese call these alliances, stretching from Australia to Japan, "relics of the Cold War" and say they will

destabilize the region. They oltimately want U.S. troops out of Asia as part of China's goal to become the major regional power in Asia. Talk of U.S. missile defense plans and

the reports of the new missile deployments in southern China also come as relations with China are entering what U.S. officials acknowledge could be a difficult period. The honeymoon, occasioned by summits between Presidents Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin in

1997 and 1998, is over, they say. China has denounced U.S. demands that North Korea allow a team of American experts to visit an underground site at Kumchangri, where U.S. officials worry the North Koreans are carrying

out a ooclear weapons program.

A broad array of Western analysts and officials say China has itself blame for the renewed urgency about theater missile defense in Asia.

China, they charge, has not used its influence on North Korea to slow its race to develop looger-range missiles with nology. improved accuracy.

Albright Will Tour Asia **Amid Concern on China**

Compiled by Our Suff From Disposites

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will travel to China, Thailand and Indonesia in March amid growing concern in Washington that Chinese-U.S. ties are again headed in the wrong direction.

"The purpose of the secretary's trip is to affirm continued U.S. strategic commitments to Asia and take up specific regional and bilateral concerns, the Asian financial crisis and progress toward free, fair and credible elections in Indonesia," said the State Department spokesman, James Ruhin.

Another official said that her trip was also intended to complete an Asian trip that she was forced to cut short in early November, skipping planned visits to Bangkok and Jakarta because of esca-

lating tensions with Iraq.

After leaving Washington on Feb. 28,
Mrs. Albright will travel to Beijing for
specings with senior Chinese officials
the first two days of March.

Her focus is "one expanding strategic

Her focus is "our expanding strategic dialogue with China and to facilitate progress on a range of bilateral issues,"

Mr. Rubin said. On March 3, Mrs. Albright will travel

to Thailand. On the following day, Mr. Rubin said, 'she will be in Indonesia to provide her an opportunity to explore with the government and opposition leaders key de-velopments, including preparations for national elections scheduled for this June, the future of East Timor and strengthening prospects for early eco-

oomic recovery."
No major initiatives are expected during this tour, which analysts in Washington regard as largely aimed at pre-paring for Prime Minister Zhu Rongji's first official visit to the United States, possibly in April.

"Both sides are rather oervous that the whole relationship is losing air speed and altitude pretty quickly," commen-ted Robert Manning, who is Asia di-rector at the nonpartisan Council on For-

eign Relations.
Mr. Zho's visit could come at an awkward time, just weeks after the State Department has issued its annual human rights review and Congress has declassified much of a report on China's alleged 20-year campaign to gain illegal access to sensitive U.S. military tech-

The human rights review will-likely

contain sharp criticism of Beijing for a

stepped-up campaign against political dissent, as the country struggles to keep a lid on discontent spurred by rising unemployment.

The congressional report on U.S. technology transfers to China could also complicate relations between the world's largest economy and the most

world's largest economy and the most populous country.

Representative Douglas Bereuter, a moderate Republican on the House page el looking into China's high-tech acquisitions, said Tuesday that the committee had found "grave and extraordinarily damaging losses to American national security by Chinese espionage because of lax security measures."

because of lax security measures."

Once the report is released, "I think it will create differences," said Mr. Berenter, who is from Nebraska. He stressed that it could be "a very serious bump."

The Pentagon is expected to make public soon two reports to Congress that also could cause concern in Beijing. One is on prospects for developing a theatermissile defense in Asia, and the other is on the military balance between China and Taiwan.

washington and Beijing are also at odds over their rising trade imbalance and when China will join the World Trade Organization, which requires broad market liberalization as a congistion of market liberalization as a congistion of market liberalization.

dition of membership.

Renewed attendoo to chronic differences undermines the revived hilateral goodwill that was the main achievement of President Bill Clinton's visit to China last summer, according to some analysts (AFP, Reuters)

BRIEFLY

Burma Regrets Boycott of Talks

BANGKOK - The Burmese government expressed regret Wednesday that the United States and Britain would oot be sending representatives to an international conference on the heroin trade to be held in Rangooo at the end of the month.

A Burmese news release said the two Western oations "bear a special responsibility to work with the rest of the international community" because as major heroin markets they fuel the international drug trade.

Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Italy have also reportedly decided to boycott the conference.

Washingtoo has been sharply critical of Burma's military government. It has applied a broad range of sanctions, including limits on official contacts, to show disapproval of the regime's human-rights record and its failure to turn over power to

Strike Toll Rises In Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Two people were killed and more than 100 injured in clashes in Bangladesh on Wednesday, the second day of an opposition-led strike.

Wednesday's violence brought the oumber of deaths in two days to three and injuries to about 200 and prompted warnings from diplomats that Bangladesh was nearing political chaos.

One of the dead, a student described as a government supporter, was shot and killed by political rivals at Feni, southeast of Dhaka.

Three major opposition parties began the strike Tuesday seeking to topple the nation's top elections official. They accuse him of pro-gov-ernment hias and demand that he quit before municipal elections Feb. 23-25. (Reuters) (Reuters)

Hun Sen Builds Ties With Beijing

BEUING — Cambodia's prime minister, Hun Sen, met Wednesday with President Jiang Zemin of China and said that high-level con-tacts between China and Cambodia had helped push ties to "a new

high," state media reported.

Mr. Hun Sen's meeting with Mr. Jiang followed talks Tuesday with Prime Minister Zhu Rongji and the signing of five agreements, including an extradition pact. The other agreements covered Chinese loans to Cambodia and cooperation in economics, technology, tourism and culture, the China Daily oewspaper reported.

Media reports did not say wheth-

er the talks had touched on international efforts to prosecute Cambodian Khmer Rouge leaders. (AP)

Prosecution Rests In Singapore Case

SINGAPORE - The prosecution completed its case Wednesday against two opposition politicians accused of holding a public speech without a permit in a trial challenging Singapore's restrictions on civil liberties.

But the leaders of the small Singapore Democratic Party, which has oo members in Parliament, said they would testify to challenge a law they consider an unconstitutional restriction on free speech. The case was adjourned until Feb. 22. (AP)



ROOFTOP INFERNO — Firefighters dousing flames Wednesday after a helicopter lowering an air conditioner crashed on the top of a Cape Town building. Four people on board were killed in the accident.

AT HOME: No Rocking Chairs as American Retirees Hit the Road

they can hardly fathom living any other

driving ever since she and her husband.

who is retired from the military, sold

"I never thought I had the nerve to do this," Mrs. Webh said one morning in

Peggy Webb, a retired nurse, has been

They call it "hitch itch."

their house five years ago.

Continued from Page 1

campgrounds for seniors living behind

responsible attitude. The rise of early retirement, medical advances helping the elderly live health-ier longer and new rigs as comfortable as an easier choice.

"It really is becoming a way of life for more of them," said Diane Harlan, who edits the Escapees' national magazine. "They're retiring with more vitality and need something in place of work. And

Many are selling their homes, storing their belongings, cashing in their nest eggs and kissing their old lives goodhye. In Land Yachts and Winnebagos, in ramshackie huses and old trailers and we were in an empty house saying, "Now what?" So we took off.

"And now I don't think I ever weat to a manufacture of the control vicwed Indonesia's latest independence ramshackle huses and old trailers pulled offer, and the rejection of a referendum, by even older pickups, they ramble hy even older pickups, they ramble across vast Western deserts in the winter

Some rattle off their favored destinations in a kind of spiritual chant: Aguanga, Yuma, Quartzsite, Mammoth Lakes. In those spots and others, there are RV camps that require reservations and limit stays. There are camps that charge fees and post rules. And for the true believers and free spirits, the geriatric gypsies who want a taste of the West where it's still wild, there is Slah It sits nearly on top of the San Andreas sadness and loss.

Fault. It is not a city at all, just an abandoned military base on 640 desolate the place of my married life when my from the nearest speck of a town, Niland (population 1,042). Troops trained here Freddy. for battle during World War II, but oot a cement slabs oo which it once stood. my kids, either." Hence, the name.

The military still drops bombs at a test tually wear some of them out. Some site a few miles away. Years ago, a return home after a few years or begin couple of foolhardy Slabbers, as old living with their children. Others join folks here are called, sneaked on to that Others climb atop their rigs some nights and watch tracer fire streak across the coal-black desert sky. Some explosions

and roam lush forests in the Pacific "People almost get their false teeth Northwest in the summer. Then they knocked out sometimes," said Phil Koursh, 75, who has been driving his turn the wheels of their RVs and do it all camper here for 13 years after a career remodeling kitchens. 'This is oot the Some have been on the road so long Riviera."

There are no fees or rules at Slab City, oo running water or electricity, just hun-dreds of humble trailers and campers scattered in every direction. The place empties in the summer because temperatures make it a furnace. This time of year, it is packed with about 5,000 Most are on their own and in their

sixties and seventies. They stop in for a few weeks or months, reunite with pilgrims they have met from their travels, then move on. Some carve out turf at Slab City by slashing old tires in half and lining them in the dirt around their rigs. It does not draw the country club set. Most roadsters here are retired factory

workers, war vets or tradesmen, usually

living on fixed incomes. They have few

expenses: gas, food, medicine and more Many are restless widows and wid-owers searching for full lives without their spouses. They all preach the glory of the road, yet some voices also betray

acres (260 hectares) of desert in the wife passed," said Irv Himelberger, 85, sontheast corner of California. It is miles a former carpenter from Washington state who travels with a must he named

"I didn't want to sit around looking at scrap from the base is left, only the the walls or have to start depending on Still, the road and the camps even-

restricted range hunting for scrap metal "It is tempting to go back some-and came back without all their limbs." said irma Ruth, whose teenage grandchildren keep np with her on the

internet home page they made her create

on her computer. "This life," added Josi Roth, "is definitely not for everyone."

California campsite. More and more American seniors are hitting the roads. camp.

A pair of Loners on Wheels hugging as morning coffee is served on a are close enough to shake and rattle the

Vill Tour Asia cern on China

stopped-up criticism of Beijugt stopped-up cumpaign against big dissent, as the country struggles by a lid on discontent spurred by a mismployment.

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Renewed attention to chrone a snees undermines the revived by goodwill that was the man achieve of President Bill Clinton's visited last summer, according to some achieve. (4FP,Re)

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Burma Regrets Boycott of Talks

BANGKOK The Burg government expressed regards messay that the United Sizes Britain would not be sending resentatives to an international ference on the heroin indent held in Rangoon at the end of

A humane news release sale two Western nations "bearspe responsibility to work with the of the international community cause as major herein makes fuel the international drug me Belgitim, the Netherlandle mark and Italy have also read decided to have out the coules."

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Strike Toll Rises . In Bangladesh

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Hun Sen Builds Ties With Beijing

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2000 AND BEYOND: MOBILE MULTI-MEDIA — A SYSTEM THAT WILL BRING STACE INTERNET MOVIES, GAMES AND MORE INTO YOUR VEHICLE / DRIVE-BY-VARE — A I'HAT WILL USE SENSORS AND THE POWER OF FUECTRICAL IMPROSES WITH

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THE SEVERITY OF INJURIES IN FRONT-END COLLISIONS / PASS-Keys — THE FIRST NITHICLE AS THAT REQUIRES A SPECIFIC KEY TO START A SPECIFIC VEHICLE / THE FIRST SUDE CHARD DO REDUCE.

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TO HELP REDUCE THE POTENTIAL DANGER TO A DRIVER IN A FRONT-FIND ACCOUNTY OF AN ACCOUNTY OF ACCOUNTY OF AN ACCOUNTY OF AN ACCOUNTY OF ACCOUNTY OF AN ACCOUNTY OF ACCOU



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ALT /Commentary

Bared-Bones Fashions, **Fully Covered Publicity**

Victoria's Secret Reaps a Media Bonanza

By Lisa Napoli New York Times Service

TEW YORK — If a fashiun ternet and most people who try tu see it cannot, does it still make a splash? You bet.

The flaunting of the Victoria's fur prime time. Secret spring collection, shown in New York on Feb. 3 and simulcast on- Hotjobs.com, was unprepared to acline, is a new media case study.

lion on a single 30-second television spot during the Super Bowl and \$4 spot, the first time it has advertised million afterward to advertise the fashion show in newspapers internaworth exponentially more.

(www.rictoriassecret.com) during the live show. There was also much adu about the sputtering audio and video

Critics chided Victoria's Secret and

over the Internet. for not being prepared for the flood of visitors. They wrote the whole thing off as one giant

publicity stunt. No kidding! Publicity is exactly what Vic-Secret toria s wanted. And it got the last laugh, orchestrating what might go down in the textbooks as shrewd multimedia ma-

nipulation. In ad-

dition to the mil-

lions that turned up the day of the fashion show, the criticized its production values. hours after the Super Bowl promotional spot.

example of the cross-media convergence that industry pundits have been breathlessly promoting as a benefit of the Web bnt which has

UCH FRETTING may miss the point. The Internet doesn't have an endless capacity to accomas a benefit of the web bit which has actually happened only a few times.

Few advertisers using any other combination of media and subject matter traffic jam, the Internet can give viewcould bope to achieve the reach that Victoria's Secret did.

"It's no longer about advertising per se or marketing per se, but about branding and using all this multidimensional media, 'said Allan Mottus, publisher any time. Victoria's Secret was able to of The Informationist, a beauty-industry newslener. "Fashion ain't Paris anymore, and it ain't New York, and it's not Victoria's Secret's 800 stores. Now, every household that has an In-

ternet connection is a fashion store." The Super Bowl spot, the news-paper ads and the Web site were the work of Resource Marketing, an agency in Columbus, Obio, with an estimated \$75 million a year in revenue. Its other clients include Cisco Systems Inc., Hewlett-Packard Cu. and Netscape Communications

frustration over this latest example of the continued shortcomings of the Wcb as a mass medium. Every time a Web event draws huge crowds, some show is shown live on the ln- piece of technology fails, leaving a number of would-be viewers in the dark and giving the naysayers grounds to declare that the medium is not ready

Another Super Bowl advertiser, commodate the onslaught of visitors The lingerie company, a unit of Intimate Brands Inc., spent \$1.5 mil-seeing its commercial. The company during the Super Bowl.

And in another recent football-retionally, yielding a bonanza of ink. lated example of convergence gone video, bits and water-cooler chat awry, the ABC television network canceled promotions for a Web site But after the show, some press re-ports focused on the fact that some tistics and an on-line play-along game would-be viewers had been closed out during the Fiesta Bowl game on Jan. 4 of the World Wide Web site after the site reached 100,000 users just minutes into the broadcast, Executives at ABC, a unit of Walt Disney Co., later acknowledged that they received by the 2 million people who had no idea the offering would prove

Even those who did manago to log Broadcast-.com, the company that de- on to the Victoria's Secret show did not see anything

quality of the glistening, fullmotion advertisement shown during the Super Bowl. Dave Dadeki-

an, a digital-video consultant in New York, called the Victoria's Secret show a "disservice" to Webcasting. No Web organiza-tion, Mr. Dadekian said, could handle the number of people that had been lured to the sbow. He also

company reported that 1 million "You can't put dark pictures, a people logged onto its Web site in the couple of spotlights, a far-away camera on the Web; It may look great for television, but you can't do that for streaming video," he said, referring to live video on the Internet.

ers what they are looking for when

they want it. Now that the initial clot of rubreach customers in countries where the company doesn't have stores or doesn't distribute the 350 million catalogs that it mails annually

Another value of the Web, according to the company, is that men seem more willing to buy on-line than in its

"The goal is not to mimic tele-vision," said Mark Cuban, president of Broadcast.com. "If you wanted to buy television, you would just buy

"We weren't trying for perfection. Corp. We were just trying to help Victoria's While those in marketing looked at Secret reach their goals. This is very the Victoria's Secret ploy with awc and envy, people more interested in the Internet's infrastructure expressed the talk of the industry."

Joysticks Help Game Players Feel 'the Force'

By Joe Hutsko

EW YORK — You're flying a World War II prop fighter. An enemy plane floats across your sights. You squeeze the trigger on your joy-stick, and it rat-a-tats vigorously in your grip. An instant later, a weighty lunge nearly rips the joystick right out of your hand. It's enemy fire, from behind. Your engine sputters. Nose takes a dive. A fast free fall with no sensation at all, then one final shudder from the stick when plane meets ground.

That scene could be played out with any number of video games, but players who take their fun seriously are no longer content with better-looking on-screen cocknits and dashboards. They want a more realistic "feel" from a new crop of add-on gaming devices with a feature known as force feedback, which makes the device react and respond in the player's hands to what is happening on-screen.
"People have taken an interest in realism, which has

driven technology forward," said Mark Szabo, editor in chief of Force One, a Web site dedicated to force feedback. (www.force-1.com). "Game developers have finally started to take advantage of the hard-

While force-feedback joysticks have been around for a couple of years, the latest devices promise more realistic responses, better designs and, most important, better support for the kinds of games that take advantage of them: flying and driving games

The force-feedback effects are created by hightorque motors that respond to instructions from game programs.

Hit a bump in the road or fire a machine gun, and the

device responds accordingly, with a weighty joli in the steering wheel or a staccato vibration of the joystick. It is not quite like being there, but as feedback effects edge closer to imitating the real thing, enthusiastic gamers are willing to shell out cash to get their hands on the goods. The new devices cost from \$100 to \$250.

The first mass-market consumer force-feedback oystick was the Force FX, introduced in November 1996 by CH Products. It uses a technology called I-Force, created by Immersion Corp. Immersion was inspired by the specialized force-

feedback devices used in training military personnel and in steering robotic hands that handle radioactive core reactor rods in unclear power plants.

game display on Force One, a Web site

dedicated to the hands-on feel of force feedback.

The new generation of add-on devices has a feature called force feedback, designed to give game players a jolting good time.

maker of the popular Flight Simulator game: It wanted a force-feedback technology to call its own and found it at a design company called Exos, absorbing its people and technology into its ever-growing hardware

HE DEVICES vary in price, aesthetic design, special features and the way they connect to the

Microsoft's Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro has an angular, split-level design that is lighter and takes less space than Logitech's smooth and curvy Wingman Force. The Sidewinder, which in its second generation has lost the noisy cooling fan that game players had complained about, connects to a computer's gamecontroller port. The Wingman connects to either a serial or Universal Serial Bus port. USB ports offer the potential for more responsivo feedback because they operate at higher speeds than serial or game controller

gether, the Logitech Wingman Force uses a series of cables to tug its stick to and fro.

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Players on several Internet newsgroups and Web sites dedicated to computer games report that feedback effects produced with the cable-based stick feel more lifelike and less harsh.

Competitive advantages and arguments aside, is force feedback a geeky gimmick, or does it give game players more than just throbbing, sweaty palms? players more than just throbbing, sweaty paints?

"There are many games out there where force feedback improves player performance by providing physical cues as to what's happening in the virtual world," Mr. Szabo said. He cited, for instance, "the world," when the time are weaking loose" in a racing feeling when the tires are breaking loose" in a racing game. "This indicates how close to the edge of the envelope they're pushing the virtual race car.

HE LATEST application of force feedback is finding its way to the computer mouse, Dubbed Feelit technology by Immersion, the device will respond in a tactile manner to on-screen clicks and

drags.

This is interesting to the players of first-person three-dimensional shooting games such as Quake and Half-Life, whose preferred method of play often is a combination of keyboard and mouse. A force-feedback mouse could be used to convey the rumble of firing a cannon or the agony of being hit by enemy fire or falling from a high terrace to a hard dungeon floor.

In the console video-game world, Nintendo made

news in 1997 when it introduced the Rumble Pack, a small cartridge that snaps into the Nintendo 64 controller. The cartridge, which operates on two AA batteries, houses a small motor that responds to on, screen action cues.

Sony has since come out with a controller for the Playstation that does not use batteries.

Both represent force feedback at its most limited. But Shigeru Miyamoto, the Nintendo game designer who invented Super Mario, hopes his latest best-selling game changes that impression.

For the first time, a video-game accessory will work on a proactive basis, shaking to clue players into action, as well as on a reactive basis, shaking in response to something that has already happened," Mr. Miyamoto said.

It's the golden fleece of feedback: the sensation that helps you win. But, of course, there is a catch.

'In order for the Rumble Pak to work at all," Mr. core reactor rods in unclear power plants.

But the most significant difference is what is inside
Several manufacturers have licensed I-Force technology for their products. But not Microsoft Corp.,

But the most significant difference is what is inside
the devices. The Microsoft products use gears to acmicrosoft products. But not Microsoft Corp.,

it wate and agitate themselves. Skipping gears altofind an item that will enable it."

Nordic 'Anti-Amazon' Thrives by Keeping It Simple:

By Bruno Giussani **New York Times Service**

offerings, specialized information and all that they care about," community-building features and tools are what make the difference between Its home page is graphically poor — success and failure. Its home page is graphically poor — although it uses frames, a technology pot

package in a compelling manner a vast a credit card or receiving an invoice. amount of "content," including reviews One possible reason customers go

and personalized purchasing suggestions, around the products it sells: books and music.

Now from Sweden comes an "anti-Amazoa." a small company called Boxman that

contradicts most of the current assumptions about Web retail. Boxman's credo: 'Move away from content if you want to Ola Ahlvarsson, the company's vice president of international development,

more people, faster and

cheaper.'

adopts almost evangelical tones when be talks about retailing on-line.
"Those who claim that the value of

their company resides in the ability to mass-tailor advice and information are wasting time," he said. "The value of the company is in selling more music to more people, faster and cheaper."

Started in Sweden in December 1997. Boxman began by offering — along with its tens of thousands of music titles — reviews by professional journalists, a music magazine, contests, a 'demo box' where musicians could show off their talents free and other content. It has

now dropped most of it. "When we ask customers what they want, they don't The expansion strategy is based TEW YORK — When looking at successful Web retailers, it is said. "They want more music samples, successful Web retailers, it is said. "They want more music samples, common to argue that tailored ease of use, speed and low prices. That's

And Boxman is giving them just that. Consider Amazon.com, the bestknown — despite being neither the
cheapest nor the fastest — of the on-line
booksellers. Amazon has been able to booksellers. Amazon has been able to tomers are given the choice of paying with

The value of the company content or commuis in selling more music to not connections in European countries. Boxman has been very offective in adapt-

ing to these get-off-line-quick users.

The company, whose goal is "to become the leading provider of home entertainment" (which hints at likely developments in videos, books, computer games and toys), is partly owned by its management. Among the other shareholders are beavyweights such as Bon-nier, one of the largest European publishing concerns.

The company's chairman is Jan Carlzon, a respected Swedish businessman who is known for having engineered in the 1980s a radical turnaround of the ailing Scandinavian Airline System.

In the second half of last year, Boxman launched operations in three other countries - Norway, Finland and Denmark — and now it employs 50 people.

The company does not disclose de-tailed revenue figures, but it says it owns 5 percent of the overall compact-disk market in the Scandinavian countries and is already turning a profit from its Swedish operation. It is now preparing to move into France, Germany, Britain and the Netherlands and is starting to plan for

ACROSS

Engrossed
 Foodh origin
 from Wates

16 "J'accuse"

14 Limerick land

16 Nephew of Abel

17 Handle many

20 Agnes and Cecil B.

21 Go ballistic

22 Blockheeds

23 Garfield's owner

24 Criticize singer

queries in local languages - but with a

The expansion strategy is based on AOL France, now in charge of setting up ocalizing the brand and the operations, the French operations of Boxman. "We localizing the brand and the operations, the French operations of Boxman. "We having local staff members answering want to respect the structure of copyright and distribution and build good relations with the music industry," he said. For "In every country we move in, we this reason, Boxman does not sell cross-purchase the products locally, from the border to customers and is careful to national distributor" said Bertrand Le avoid parallel importing channels.

SURFING AS A COED SPORT: This year for the first time, the number of women using on-line services is likely to match the number of men on-line, ason customers go straight to the products, ignoring content of communications of the firm, said. But by late 1998, about 48 percent of the people on-line were content of communications. content or commu-nity features, is the use to save time, it becomes more appealing, particularly to women who are high cost of Inter- stretched for time as they balance work and home," Mr. Gens said. (WP)

TECHNOLOGY Technology stock indexes around the world: Pct. change, year to date Pacific Exchange Tech 465.93 +3.721,227.32 S&P Tech Composite +5.06 Morgan Stanley Eurotec +6.79 Topix Electric 1,563.75 Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News

For technology articles from the past week, see TribTech on the IHT's World Wide Web site at http://www.iht.com. Articles include:

Russia Urges U.S. to Help Flx Computers Technology Stocks Lead the Market Lower, lor 2000, Feb. 4

lor 2000, Feb. 4

Consumers Win a Game, Feb. 4

On-Line Ossis in Hait's Cyber Desert, Feb. 4

Microsoft Silps Up in Video Demonstration at

Ball Silps Up in Video Demonstration at

Ball Silps Up in Video Demonstration at

Europe Posts 23% Growth in PC Sales for

On-Line Trading Hits Snags, Feb. 5 Virtual Stores, Real Clout, Feb. 9 Internet Investing: How to Add Safety, Feb. 4 Microsoft to Reorganiza Into 4 Units, Feb. 9

To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT tech coverage, send e-mail to tribtech @lint.com.

SOFTWARE

The best hardware and software at some of the lowest prices on the planet. PALM III \$ 289.00 (€ 254.00) Prior called through Buysoftware.com is your best source for everything from digital cameras to laptops, plus memory and a broad rango of software titles. Visit us today at www.buysoftware.com.

buysoftware.com

Amazon.com Takes Full-Disclosure Pledge

By Doreen Carvajal

TEW YORK -- Faced with e-mail rebukes from its customers, the on-line retailer Amazon.com Inc. has revised its new advertising policy, pledging to disclose every time that book publishers pay to feature titles on its electronic bookstore.

The Seattle-based company said it was still figuring out the mechanics of this new policy but said it would take effect March 1. In the meantime, Amazon has expanded its book-return policy to demonstrate its faith in its recommendations, vowing to accept titles from dissat-isfied customers no matter bow dog-eared or worm they are, said Jeff Bezos, the company's chief executive and

The New York Times reported Monday that Amazon had fashioned an "e-merchandising" program for book publishers that sought advertising dollars for featured treatment of titles in categories that range from "What We're Reading" to "Destined for Greatness."

Amazon did not disclose the advertising fees, which

ranged from \$250 to \$12,500, to its customers. The bookseller contended that its sites were not for sale because editors screened and vetted books worthy of

The change in policy signaled a recognition that Amazon — with its reviews, recommendations and friendly interaction with customers — is a hybrid, both bookseller and electronic adviser, somehow different from bookstore chains or supermarkets that commonly sell shelf space for products. "We're always listening to our customers, and it was clear that our customers had a higher expectation for ns than the physical bookselling world," said Bill Curry, a

company spokesman.

Solution to Puzzle of Feb. 10 ASS BUMPSOFF ALAN AURAL REL BINGINGSCRABBLE

CROSSWORD 61 Prefix with knock 26 Caused by 62 Be superior 28 in line

as Cookie in **63 COORT** stacking 64 Clarinet part 65 Future fem 37 Physics Nobe 66 Dolly and others 38 One Knight 39 Hand (out)

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41 Attack 43 See 31-Across 1 Fred's portraye on "Seniord" 44 Prepare a Time Inc. magazine? 2 Broadcast 47 Foot, in zoology 48 Appointed 52 ---- fideles . . .

> 8 Miracle 9 Affluxes 11 In the past Abbr.

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DOWN

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50 Set up inancially 81 Search (into) 52 Yon 53 Completed 54 Art Deco

55 Winter fender bender cause se With a bow, to 57 Boxer Max 58 Gets the picture eo Food pkg. abbr



FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION Read THE MONEY REPORT IN GLOBAL C

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TATEST application of force feedback belies in very to the computer mouse Daily in the devices in a second manner to on-screen clicks

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ry has since come out with a controller for ation that does not use batteries. h represent force feedback at its most line higern Miyamoto, the Nintendo game deservanted Super Mario, hopes his latest best at

changes that impressioo. or the first time, a video-game accessory on a proactive basis, shaking to clue playeriz is as well as on a reactive basis, shaling that has already happened "k

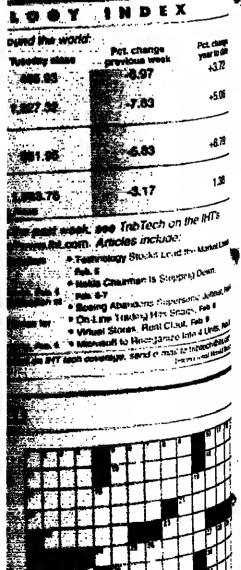
the golden fleece of feedback, the sensamme you win. But, of course, there is a catch. a order for the Rumble Pak to work at all "F moto said, "players will need to search for an them that will enable it."

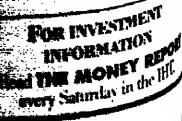
eping It Simple

Picher, the former managing directing AOL Prance, now in charge of setting resions, the French operations of Boxman's reserving - want to respect the structure of comit with the massic industry." he said is this relation, Boxman does not selles border to customers and is cadi and Le avoid parallel importing channels

独 4 张 F L Y

RT: This year for the first time, the number taly to match the number of men of a Group, a market research firm list Frank Gens, a senior vice profe 4 48 perpent of the people on-lines Pres from being a curiosity to a tool that yet home, Mr. Gens said. (WP)





INTERNATIONAL

New Plans To Monitor Iraq Offered

By Judith Miller New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York - The International Atomic Energy Agency has submitted plans for long-term monitoring of Iraq that call for "intrusive" inspections and assume that Baghdad might try again to produce nuclear weapons. In a report to the Security Council

on Monday, the agency director, Mohammed Baradei, said the monitoring would cost at least \$10 milfion a year. The report concludes once again flat Iraq is denying the agency documents and material it has requested, including, for in-stance, documentary evidence that fraq has abandoned its nuclear weapons program. And the agency said it could not verify that Iraq had not hidden banned nuclear equipment or materials.

The agency has therefore concluded that any long-term monitoring must be "comprehensive, rigorous, and, as a result, intrusive.

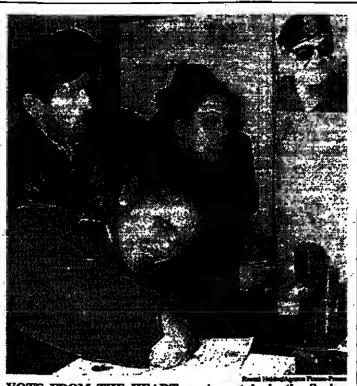
Specifically, the agency says it would use such measures as "unannounced inspections of previ-ously uninspected locations." It would examine 'records, equip-ment, materials and products,' as well as conduct interviews, enviformental monitoring and radiation surveys, and test samples of water, tation, air and soil.

vegetation, air and sou.

Most problematic from Iraq's standpoint, the agency said it would ficed to conduct "unannounced inspections at new sites" to detect signs of banned activities. Such inspections infuriated Iraq when they were conducted by the United Nafions Special Commission charged with disarming Iraq of unconven-tional weapons. While the Special Commission inspects for biological and chemical weapons, the International Atomic Energy Agency monitors nuclear activities.

Air Strikes in Iraq

U.S. and British aircraft struck Ifaqi air defense sites in the south Wednesday in response to "pro-vocations," according to U.S. military authorities, Agence France-Presse reported from Washington. I. No aircraft were damaged in the attack, near Tabl, 270 kilometers (170 miles) southeast of Baghdad, and An Najaf, 160 kilometers south of the capital, the authorities said.



VOTE FROM THE HEART — A captain in the Syrian armed forces, identified only as Baddour, giving her blood thumbprint on Wednesday in a referendum to affirm President Hafez Assad, the only candidate, to a fifth 7-year term.

The UN General Assembly tralia, Bahamas, Cameroon, Ro-

Fourth Geneva Convention on pro- the 1949 convention, which deals

Israeli-occupied territories, partic- time of war, was asked to make

Israel opposed, the assembly adopt- convention for convening such a

ed a resolution by 115 votes to 2, meeting—never previously held—

ularly the convention's ban on set- preparations for the conference.

Addis Ababa Rules Out | **Border War Cease-Fire**

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia -the two countries' border war unless Eritrea withdrew or was pushed out

of the contested tearitory is occupies.
"Ethiopia," Foreign Minister
Seyoum Mesfin said, "has no option but to fight the aggressor army, to root it out of our own territory,

war last May, which lasted six weeks. Hostilities reignited Saturday. Eritrea said that fighting subsided Wednesday but that there could be

no cease-fire unless Ethiopia stopped its attacks.

A Western diplomat in the Eritrean capital of Asmara said: "I can confirm that there was no heavy fighting. We do not know of fighting

summoned in April 1997 and re-

convened four times since. The

latest session, which began Friday, was requested by the 22-member

Arab group, supported by the 114-member Nonaligned Movement.

adopted by overwhelming major-

ities at previous sessions con-

demning Israel's failure to halt set-

The resolution reiterated those

other fronts.'

UN Calls for Talks on Civilians in Israeli-Occupied Areas

been fighting at Geza Gerlase and Ethiopia said Thursday that there around Kunin and Kunito along the would be no cease-fire with Britrea in 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) border, an Ethiopian government spokesman said. President Bill Clinton and the

The two countries' armies have

United Nations Security Council both called Tuesday for an immediate end to the fighting between the two Hom of Africa nations. Mr. Clinton and Ethiopia has full confidence that said he was "particularly alarmed" it has the capacity and capability to

by the Ethiopian use of air power,
achieve this objective."

by the Ethiopian use of air power,
which violates a U.S.-brokered mor-Eritres occupied the contested atorium the two sides signed last June Badme region in the first round of the after a month of fighting that left several thousand dead.

Eritrea said Ethiopian Antonov and MiG warplanes bombed the vil-lage of Deda la-llai at dawn Tuesday, killing a family of five and wounding five other people.

Eritrea maintains it is still ob-

Homa in Hebrew and Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arabie, that Israel cap-

The U.S. delegate, Peter Bur-

leigh, said the resolution would

'only serve to damage the climate'

for Middle East negotiations. He

called it an "unacceptable assault

on the basic uses and meaning" of

In Jerusalem, Israel on Wednesday

the Fourth Geneva Convention.

■ Israel Sees Political Motive

serving the moratorium on air strikes, although Ethiopia charged that the Eritrean aircraft had attacked the northern Ethiopian town of Adigrat. (Reuters, AFP) either on the main front or on the

The assembly acted at an emergency special session first tured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Taleban Isolate Saudi Dissident

ISLAMABAD -- The Taleban on Wednesday bowed to U.S. and British pressure and isolated the Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, banning him from receiving visitors or having outside contacts, the Afghan Islamic Press reported.

'Osama bin Laden has been disallowed to meet any visitors or other people," the Pakistan-based private information service said, quoting a decree issued by the office of the Taleban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar.

Mr. bin Laden has been accused by the United States of masterminding the bombings in August of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Legal Ivory Trade to Resume

GENEVA — African ivory can be sold legally in international trade under an experimental program ap-proved Wednesday, the United Nations said. The project, opposed by some animal rights groups,

will allow for ivory to be exported from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe to Japan. The ban on all trade in ivory was introduced nine years ago to protect the species, which had been run down by

widespread poaching, but elephants have flourished in some countries, and game-protection officials have argued that they now have more elephants than their land

Battle Reported in Algeria

ALGIERS — Helicopter gunships were pounding Islamie rebels holed up in a forest near Algiers on Wednesday, and hundreds of soldiers have been deployed to storm their hideout, the newspaper El Watan said. Meanwhile, Islamic guerrillas killed five members of a

government force and wounded two others in an ambush in Tebessa Province, about 480 kilometers (about 300 miles) east of Algiers, on Tuesday, the daily Al Khabar said.

El Watan said the helicopters were bombarding rebels in Sidi Ali Bounab forest in Tizi-Ouzou Province, 60 kilometers east of Algiers. It said the oumber of the trapped guerrillas was significant, without giving a fig-

The military operation started Tuesday after a "re-pentant" rebel tipped off security officials about the hideout, the newspaper added. The operation was continuing, it said.

Alaskan Species Recovering

ANCHORAGE - Pink and sockeye salmon, sea otters, certain seabirds and other species are recovering from the damage inflicted by the Exxon Valdez oil spill a decade ago, according to a report. About half of the species harmed by the 1989 disaster

are on their way to recovery, said the report, issued Thesday by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. The council, comprising three federal and three state

trustees, manages the \$900 million that Exxon has promised to pay over a decade to settle state and federal civil The Exxon Valdez tanker spilled millions of gallons of

oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound after it ran

that the 188 signatories of the con- that only the parties to the con- ularly to a housing project at a site political motives and not on human-vention attend such a conference at vention could settle, not Switzer- south of Jerusalem, called Har itarian ones," Reuters reported. With Eye on UN Post, Holbrooke Settles Ethics Questions

with 5 abstentions, recommending there were a number of questions tlement activity. It referred partic- rejected the UN move as "based on

By John Mintz. Washington Post Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York

called Tuesday for a conference to

be held July 15 to ensure that the

tecting civilians is respected in the

With only the United States and

has reached an agreement with the Justice Department under which he will pay \$5,000 to settle ethics al-United Nations.

Moments after the settlement was announced Tuesday, President Bill Clinton said he would soon submit -WASHINGTON-Richard Hol- the nomination for Senate confirbrooke, a veteran diplomat who en- mation. In a statement, the president gineered the Bosnia peace accord, said that at a time when international crises from Iraq to Kosovo demand the leadership of the United States, "it is essential that we have a strong legations that have delayed his nom- and capable diplomat" like Mr. North Carolina and the committee tions considered at the Justice De-

the UN office in Geneva

mania and Swaziland.

Abstentions were cast by Aus-

Switzerland, as the depository of

But its UN observer said that giv-

en the absence of provisions in the

with the protection of civilians in

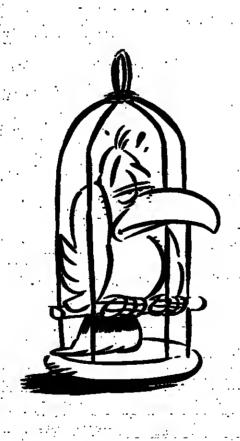
ination to be U.S. ambassador to the Holbrooke as UN ambassador.

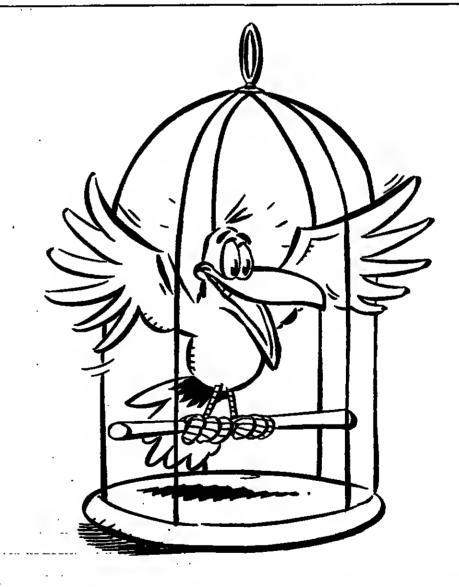
ination," he said. But a Senate staff member said the spokesman for Mr. Helms.

Foreign Relations Committee was preparing to re-examine all evidence while Mr. Holbrooke is widely admittee conflict-of-interest allegations mired as an effective diplomat, he against Mr. Holbrooke, rather than has ruffled some Senate feeling-accepting the Justice Department's senough to make the confirmation deal Jesse Helms, a Republican from hearings contentious. The allega-

timely consideration of his nom- what the issue was and how it was resolved, saidMarc Thiessen, a

Congressional sources said that olbrooke as UN ambassador. chairman, wants the committee staff partment centered on Mr. Hol"I look forward to the Senate's to retrace the inquiry to determine brooke's activities in 1996.





IN GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS, STANDARDIZED SOLUTIONS DON'T FLY.

Enterprise information systems are essential to competitiveness in multinational business. Managing competing communications traffic, from mission-critical supply chain transactions to web browsing, is growing more expensive and complex. Plus, the demand for flexible solutions to meet an ever-changing variety of international connectivity needs is increasing. So what you need is a network that really lets you spread your wings.

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The requirements of your enterprise are unique. To maximize your business systems investments and gaio a competitive advantage, you need a global specialist who can analyze your needs and build the network to match. You need Infonet. Choosing the network that grows with you Infooet has been the leading supplier of managed global communication solutions for 2g years.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Cribune

Hong Kong Crunch

In the 19 months since Hong Kong reverted to China, the worst fears have not come true. Beijing has for the most part kept its hands off the former British colony, as promised, allowing it to manage its own affairs. Now the two entities may be approaching a crisis that determines whether Hong Kong can maintain substantive independence. It is "make-or-break time," the chairman of Hong Kong's bar association, Ronny Tong, said on Tuesday.

A decision by Hong Kong's highest court triggered the confrontation. The decision ostensibly concerned the rights of children born in China to at least one Hong Kong parent to settle in Hong Kong. The court said they could, even if born out of wedlock. But the significance of the decision lay elsewhere, in its legal reasoning. For the first time, the court claimed for itself the authority to interpret Hong Kong law for Hong Kong.

On most matters, in other words, the final word should not rest with Beijing. And more than that: Hong Kong laws should be interpreted above all with a deference to Hong Kong autonomy and an understanding that rights and freedoms are "the essence of Hong Kong's civil society." The contrast

with China's arbitrary one-party dictatorship could not have been sharper. The decision bas not sat well in

Beijing. Four "legal experts" were the first to express dismay. Then Zhao Qizheng, a senior cabinet official, called the decision a mistake. On Tuesday a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman chimed in, saying the government was 'closely following' the ruling.
The idea of "one country, two sys-

tems" was an experiment from the start. Trying to maintain an island of free enterprise and relative democracy within a Communist state was never going to be easy. But its success is crucial, not only to residents of Hong Kong but to China's credibility in the world and to those nations, such as the United States, which pledged to stand

up for Hong Kong's freedom.

Now Beijing officials are threatening that success. Not only Hong Kong's liberty but its prosperity is at stake, since local and foreign companies alike will be reductant to invest in Hong Kong if its rule of law can be compromised and superseded by party apparatchiks in Beijing. The Clinton administration should make clear that it, too, is "closely following" developments.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Onward to Censure

The possibility that a simple upor-down vote on an appropriately tough censure resolution will not take. place haunts the impeachment proceedings. Some Republican senators who oppose censure are threatening to filibuster any censure resolution, and it is not clear whether enough Republicans will support such a resolution to ensure that a clean vote happens. Particularly after the House Republican leadership, on the thinnest of constitutional pretexts, denied House members the opportunity to consider censure as an alternative to impeachment, this seems unfortunate. A failure to vote on censure would mean that the Senate's only official comment on Bill Clinton's behavior would be that it does not warrant his removal - which, while true enough, would hardly be a complete expression of the majority sentiment. After a year of consensus that Mr. Clinton's conduct is deplorable, he would walk.

To be sure, any senator who truly believes that a censure resolution that does no more than express the opinion of the Senate is unconstitutional could not, in good conscience, support censure. Although this view is wholly unsupported either by the constitution or by its history, senators should not be in the business of supporting bills that they think offend constitutional norms.

But to senator who seriously con-

templated supporting 'findings of fact' in the context of the impeachment trial can turn around and argue now that there is a serious constitutional impediment to a censure resolution, Rather, if the vote is blocked, it will represent primarily an effort not at protecting the constitution but at making as stark as possible the decision to acquit the president. This might make sense as a matter of politics, but after more than a year of this scandal it seems as if a more nuanced ontcome is a small favor to request.

It is certainly true that censure would, as some Republicans have complained, serve as a fig leaf for Democrats who want to acquit the president without admitting that they are giving him a pass. Bot that is not all it would be. To the contrary, there is value in the Senate going ou record as saying that presidents are not permitted to behave as Mr. Clinton has. If only in the expressions of outrage that will make up the historical record that follows revelation of such behavior, there

will be accountability for it.

This is admittedly a diffuse kind of penalty, one that might have little bite in the short term for a president who seems to be begging for such censure. In the long term, however, it is certainly an apt reaction, one that is at least worth a clean vote.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

Microsoft and Fairness

For all its economie and technological prowess, Microsoft is tooe-deaf when it comes to public relations. Last week, in the latest of a string of fiascoes, it was embarrassed at its antitrust trial by a video demonstration that turned out to have been clumsily doctored. But the question before Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson in federal court is not images. It is whether the Justice Department is correct in arguing that Microsoft bas illegally used its monopoly power to punish rivals and partners and expand its software business in other areas. So far the trial has demonstrated that the company faces a tough time challenging the government's case.

The original focus of the trial was on whether the company illegally comhined its own Internet Explorer browser with its basic Windows software in order to muscle aside the rival browser made by Netscape. It has expanded into a larger government argument that Microsoft engaged in predatory conduct with rivals. It argues that it is not a monopoly, because of the fiercely competitive and fast-changing environment in computers. On Tuesday, it repeated its line that special deals with Intuit and other companies are no different from various exclusive licensing arrangements throughout the industry.

As for tying its operating software to a browser, Microsoft argues that doing so is defensible as long as consumers get a better product out of it. In the last few weeks, several of Microsoft's witnesses have tried to show that consumers do indeed benefit from fully integrated computer and software

products. The Justice Department has repeatedly argued, oo the other hand, that the chief advantage gained from product integration is to Microsoft itself, and that the company tried to transform its operating system choke bold into a club, forcing competitors and consumers to choose products that they might oot otherwise want.

Microsoft has a few more weeks to buttress its case. But what is interesting about the trial is the extent to which the economic and technological landscape outside the courtroom has changed even since proceedings began last year.

Microsoft's argument that it is not a monopoly at present seems questionable. Most experts find that a 95 percent market share in personal computer op erating systems is a monopoly. On the other hand, many of these same experts speculate that in a matter of years there may be other products offering access to the Internet for consumers. It may soon be possible to pick up a telephone turn on a television or flip on a hand-beld device to get on the Internet, without using Windows at all.

But that is not the real world yet Right now, the Justice Department is right to demand that Microsoft not use its current monopoly to restrict con-

The federal government, applying antitrust principles more than a century old, has a constructive role to play in ensuring that certain basic ground rules of fair competition are observed. In a rapidly changing environment, the entire industry benefits from unfettered

competition and basic fairness. -THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Herald Cribune

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Schroeder's Germany Has Decided to Be German

MUNICH — When Gerhard Schroeder came to power in October, the chancellor's opening days seemed to herald a major shift in European politics. Diplomats and journalists frantically tracked signs that he was abandoning Helmut Kohl's fast alliance with France in favor of a London-Bonn joint venture.

"They have it wrong in asking if Schroeder favors Britain over France, or France over Britain," Foreign Minister Hubert Védrine reportedly told a colleague after observing the new German chancellor at work. "Schroeder favors Germany. That is what we all have to understand.

Mr. Védrine's shrewd analysis captures Mr. Schroeder's ability to hide things in plain sight. He has fashioned the beginnings of a more activist German foreign policy openly centered on national interest. While cooperating with his U.S. or European partners, he is constantly looking over his shoulder at German unemployment and other domestic concerns that brought him to power, a preoccupation that he betrayed while speaking to an audience of allied defense officials and experts here.

He had just confirmed that Germany will send 2,000 troops to help enforce a cease-fire in Kosovo if peace breaks out in that embattled Serbian-ruled By Jim Hoagland

province. Then be paused to muse aloud on the irony of a coalition government of Social Democrats and Greens taking the taboo-breaking decision to dispatch German combat soldiers back to the Balkans for the first time since World War II:

"If I had said this a year ago, I would have been killed politically. ... But things change. We must say that Germany is now a fully fledged partner" in promoting European security. That includes taking on missions within NATO that the Social Democrats, the Greens and the rest of the German left have traditionally opposed.

Deftly handling a 90-minute barrage of often skeptical questions about his coalition's ability to adapt its once Marxist ideological stands to NATO policies, Mr. Schroeder demonstrated his considerable skills as a communicator and synthesizer of conflicting viewpoints. He is a quintessentially modern politician of the post-Cold War era. "Europe is willing to assume more

responsibility in foreign and security policy, and that is in American in-terests," he told the Munich Conference on Security on Feb. 6, responding to anxiety in Washington about anything that would weaken U.S. control over NATO.

But he also warned the Europeans that if they once again failed to be effective in taking on more of the defense burden, "then Europe will have no right to complain about others taking unilateral decisions."

This is the kind of argument of necessity that Mr. Schroeder has used to begin to transform the political culture of the German left. Like Bill Clinton in the United States and Tony Blair in Britain, he won election here by outflanking his party's outdated beliefs and campaign styles while his opponents kept a more traditional view of constituencies that are in fact undergoing dramatic change. Such tactics make for effective cam-

paign politics. National electorates have been rewarding center-leftists like Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Blair who emphasize their commitments to more effective management and marketcentered reform of the welfare state. Conservatives like French President Jacques Chirac or, for that matter, Governor George W. Bush of Texas, do best in the polls when accenting their compassion for those left behind by the global economy.

But this homogenization of issues does not make for clear leadership. It

leaves foreign policy captive to con-stantly shifting domestic fortunes. Pressed to repudiate a recent call by

his Green foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, for NATO to rule out first use of nuclear weapons, Mr. Schroeder made two things clear. One was that Germany will take "no" for an answer in the no-first-use debate. There will be no serious German challenge to current allied nuclear strategy at the NATO summit in Washingtoo in April.

But the chancellor also emphasized that Mr. Fischer was free to continue raising the issue. If Germans were getting over taboo subjects, he suggested, others would have to do the same.

Behind the no-first-use controversy lies the much more hotly debated domestic issue of the role of ouclear power in the German economy. The Greens demand that the country's 19 nuclear reactors be shut down immediately, a goal that Mr. Schroeder endorses but refuses to set any timetable

After six years of navigating in forign policy waters largely by the light of its domestic political needs, the Clinton administration must now deal with the first post-World War II German government which does the same. May the Clintonites enjoy the experience. The Washington Post.

Kosovo: The Rambouillet Plan May Prove Too Sensible The Europeans and the United States are ready to give

PARIS — The plan for Kosovo put before Serbian and Kosovar delegates to the Rambonillet conference is the best plan that rational man could design. Reason is not enough, though, to determine what comes ont of this peace conference, convoked at the palatial summer residence of French presidents. Emotion and power will warp what results.

The plan, according to French sources, arbitrates the contradictory and passionate claims made by Serbs to Kosovo, this "sacred" province of Serbia, where the vast majority of the former Serbian population no longer choose to live; and claims made by the actual majority, composed of ethnie Albanians who want Kosovo to become part of a 'Greater" Albanian nation, which has yet to exist.

It proposes the following for Serbs and Kosovo Albanians during the next three years:

 Kosovo will remain a part of Serbia, which will control its economy, moncy, defenses and . foreign relations.

• Serbia will reduce its po-

lice presence in Kosovo to 2,575 men in defined tasks, including border control; and its army to 1,500 men, confined might interdict Serbian operto a five-kilometer zone along ations inside the province. As the province's Albanian and no Western power has the least tributed — but Saddam Hussein Macedonian borders. Other- interest in committing troops to wise, the province will be policed by communal police.

 The Kosovo Albanians will disarm and dismantle their guerrilla army.

 Kosovo's population will rule itself in an autonomous fashion, through a 100-member Parliament representing all

• The Parliament will elect a the rest of the Balkans. The dam's already formidable abil-

NEW YORK — It now seems likely that the first

woman to become a really se-

rious candidate for president

of the United States will be

Many people might have preferred somebody different

—a woman less dependent oo a famous husband for ber

name recognition, less

starchy, or less implacable in

her opposition to abortion. But Mrs. Dole, who is now

showing up at the top of some

Republican polls in New

Hampshire, looks like the des-

In a way, that seems logical.

Democrats are always worry-ing about whether a woman

presidential candidate could

appear tough enough to veto

bills and bomb other countries.

But the Republican Party's

conservative wing already has

an agenda with a surplus of toughness. A female candidate

from the right might be able to

massage the anti-tax, anti-

government, socially conser-

vative agenda into something that sounds palatable to the

Mrs. Dole, a former head of

not said a word in public for

years about anything more controversial than blood

donations. She made a polit-

ical coming-out speech in

New Hampshire this week,

few well-aimed shots at the

Clinton presidency, she did not take any stands beyond the

breathtakingly obvious. ("As a conservative, I hate waste.")

But she did a good job of out-

moderate majority.

Elizabeth Dole.

By William Pfaff

prime minister. Kosovo will have its own judiciary. Something like 30,000
NATO troops will be present to see that all this happens.

 The whole arrangement will be reviewed in three years. The plan amounts to making Kosovo a voluntary international protectorate. Its acceptance relies oo NATO having placed a gun at the Serbs' heads. It will work only if neither side makes

a sudden move. The method, as well as the result, may prove unpalatable to Serbia, whose leader, Slobodan Milosevic (who started all of this), might prefer that if Kosovo is to be taken from Serbia, it be done violently. He would then have an excuse to offer fellow Serbs, whom he has, during the last decade, repeatedly sent into war, defeat and national dismemberment.

He could say Kosovo was stolen from Serbia by NATO. There are several violent alternatives to the peaceful solu-tion proposed at Rambouillet. One would be for NATO to impose protectorate status oo Kosovo. NATO air forces a war for (or against) the Kosovars, their 'Liberatioo Army' vars, their "Liberation Army" Current proposals by the would be left to seize Kosovo's Clinton administration to lift

NATO would have become the KLA's air force." This would threaten the prin- make a bad situation intolerably cipal international interest: to worse. Neither proposal would contain the consequences of ethnic Albanian irredentism in

Give a Welcome to Elizabeth Dole

By Gail Collins

close the gender gap while

still promoting a core party

problem with women voters

since the mid-'80s, and it gets

worse whenever the party

nominates men who look as if

they are going to yell. The gap opened wide when Newt Gin-

grich became the Republican

standard-bearer, and it hit some sort of critical mass when

Mrs. Dole's husband became

Bob Dole has many good qualities, but his public per-

sona is close to that of an old

guy who won't let the kids into his yard to retrieve their ball.

Elizabeth Dole, who says "my

gracious" a lot and reminds her

audiences that "we are all God's children," is going to be the kindly auntie who settles

squabbles and hands out

She made several refer-

ences to the narcotics prob-

lem, seeming to suggest that

its roots lay in Hollywood's

glamorization of drug use. It is

Occasionally her points seemed less like actual

thoughts than an attempt to

see how many right-wing

buzzwords could be strung in-

culture and our choices, or has

government wrested that from

us, paying for its power with confiscatory taxation?"

ested in a women's agenda,

Mrs. Dole spent a lot of time

talking about schools. "We

Like any candidate inter-

glasses of lemonade.

conservatives.

the American Red Cross, has a theory much beloved by

drawing media from as far to a single paragraph. "Do we

away as Japan. Except for a assume responsibility for our

She is going to sell herself as the Republican who can afford newer, safer class-

The Republicans have had a

president, who will name a solution's advantages and disadvantages have already been discussed in this space. It is

unlikely, but oot impossible.

A second possibility, which I described last year as the "Balkan solution," would sponsor exchange of Kosovo's independence for reunion of Serbia with the Republika Srpska (now part of the Bosnian republic). This could have fatal consequences for the international effort in Bosnia to establish a liberal political system there. It would be a policy of cynicism, but possibly of realism.

A third conceivable alternative may be called the "distant country of which we know

Serbs to their war, doing what they can, which might not be much, to keep Kosovo's Balkan neighbors ont of it. The unacceptability to liberal

would abandon Kosovars and

opinion of the last two possibilities is why Kosovars and Scrbs are at Rambouillet today. Optimism about the outcome must rest on a belief that people can be forced to be reasonable. It could prove to be true. The Rambouillet plan is a

solution by international diktat. We want peace on our continent!" said France's Jacques Chirac as he admonished Serbian and Kosovar delegates at Rambouillet on Saturday. He said the Contact Group "possesses the authority necessary little" solution. The Western to see that right, justice and powers and the Contact Group peace triumph."

economic support and provide a military presence, if the Ram bouillet plan is accepted. If it is not, and the gun at the head is ignored by Serbia, NATO will bomb Serbian forces and targets. We will then be confronted with the problem, familiar by now from bombings in warmer climes, of "What now?" Secretary of State Madeleine

Albright said on Sunday that if there is continued or renewed fighting in Kosovo, "We are not going to be there," meaning that if Rambouillet fails, U.S. ground troops will oot be available for Kosovo. What then will be the answer

to the question "What now?" International Herald Tribune. Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Iraq: Saddam Lords It Over Oil Prices

ROSWELL New Mexico— Under the United Nations "oil for food" program, the world permits Iraq to sell oil if it uses the proceeds to buy food and medicine. It is a noble goal, but the policy is fatally flawed.

Not only is the aid not getting to the Iraqi people - most supplies lie in warehouses, undishas been granted effective control over world oil prices.

independence on its own, the cap on Iraqi oil sales, and by the French to throw sanctions entirely to the wind, would only help the Iraqi people.

Both would bolster Sad-

rooms with smaller classes,'

she said, tossing in better-

school days and extended

school years. But the issue,

she said, "is oot more or less

federal spending — it's oot public schools or private,

vouchers or commitment to

By now we were practically

falling off our seats waiting to hear what it is. "The ultimate

test of our resolve is not how

much money Washington gives to school districts, but

how much control Washing-ton gives back to parents and

reachers." On the list of things

about local public schools that

have parents worried, federal

Still, the mere fact that she

seems to wish the public

schools well is a refreshing

change from some of her fel-

low Republicans. Her New

Hampshire address was no

barn-raiser, but that does not

mean she is going to be a poor candidate. People who under-

estimate her make the mistake

of failing to consider how bad

her male oppositioo can be.

She delivers her speeches as

written, word for word, a habit

her critics point to as proof

that she is too inflexible. An

Elizabeth Dole public appear-

ance does indeed have a sense

of being rehearsed as carefully

as a royal wedding. But any

body who followed Bob Dole

or George Bush through their

New Hampshire primaries,

trying to make sense of their

off-the-cuff remarks, knows

that spontaneity can be a very

be predictable, but at least they

all contain subjects and verbs.

Every sentence of hers may

overrated commodity.

cootrol ranks about 33d.

public education."

teachers, longer

By George Yates

That formula gives Iraq no incentive to produce in a sensible manner that conserves resources, or to get the highest possible price for its product. It gives Iraq every incentive to move its oil onto the market at

Most oil producers have seen their capital depleted by this market collapse, seriously han-dicapping their ability to add production capacity. This has substantially accelerated the natural depletion rate of existing fields worldwide, including those in the United States. That depletion, combined with in-creasing demand, is shrinking the world's ability to maintain

Many oil-exporting nations have tried to eut production to bring prices back up. Mean-while, under the UN policy, Iraq is allowed to use \$600 million of its annual oil revenue to

repair and expand its fields. Saddam's regime bas increased daily oil exports from around 700,000 barrels 14 months ago to 2.3 million barrels at the end of 1998. As consumer demand for oil increases, Iraq could cut its production and raise prices skyward.

Saddam wanted higher oil prices when he invaded Kuwait; to raise money that he needed to build his military forces-Now he cannot use oil to buy arms. But hy keeping oil prices low, he is reducing the incomes of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and others.

Worse, by undermining excess capacity worldwide, he is in a position to rock the oil markets in either directioo either destabilizing exporting countries, as he is doing today, or punishing the consuming countries by withholding oilfrom the market.

Judging from reported increases in reserves worldwide, the excess of oil produced over demand now stands at about 700,000 barrels a day. If that much overproductioo causes depression-level prices, what would happen to prices if Saddam chose to withhold I or 2 million barrels a day, as he now could?

The writer, chairman of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, a trade group representing 8,000 oil and gas producers, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

1899: Walking Sticks

PARIS - The revival of the walking stick craze is very noticeable at the West End of London. Smart women are to be seen in numbers, carrying elab-orate looking sticks or canes in lieu of gamps or parasols. The fad may seem a trifle mannish to people of old-fashioned tastes, but it unquestionably affords abundant opportunity for graceful posing and that artistic by-play of movement which leads an additional charm to the presence of a pretty woman.

at grips with the law in the mining town of Herrin. Despite the presence of fifteen companies of militia and the declaration of

Kn Klux Klan still held the town-hall and refused to bow before the orders of the military commanders. Eleven persons werearrested. All were members of the party that killed Cagle, a Klansman, who headed the mobthat descended upon a meeting of the Knights of the Flamin Circle, a rival organisation, and put them to rout after a battle.

Vinayak Godse, confessed as-sassin of Mahatma Gandhi, and Narayan Dattatraya Apte, leader of the conspiracy which led to the murder, were sentenced to be. hanged. Five other defendants. who have been on trial on charges of conspiracy were sentenced to life imprisonment. The, martial law following the bloody fighting of yesterday [Feb. 9], when two men were killed and Pakistan will be destroyed, prisoners being led from the dock began shouting slogans.

ity to undermine rival Arab states and to depress American The oil-for-aid program per-

mits Iraq to sell not a specific number of barrels but rather any amount worth up to \$10.6 billion annually. But, having permitted Iraq's production infrastructure to deteriorate (a sacrifice to its overweening military objectives), Saddam is now unable to muster oil worth more than \$5.4 billion every year. And he is unable to tooch

whatever price is offered. It is a traism in the oil business, as in other businesses that produce commodities, that the latest goods to enter the market have a disproportionate effect on the price. The result of this has been a dangerous concentration of power in traqi hands. Iraqi sales have been partly responsible for the fact that oil is now sold at fire-sale prices.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO.

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Political Will H Made Hinds Hadren

C'mon, Janet Reno, Give Ken Starr the Heave-Ho

By Maureen Dowd

WASHINGTON — You go, Hubbell, from Susan McDongal, W girlfriend. Do not get bogged down in your usual dillydallying, shilly-shallying thing.

Dump the guy, Janet. He is a loser. Worse, he is a stalker.

Maybe he did not do rope lines, but Kenneth Starr is more

creepily obsessed with tracking and trapping Bill Clinton than Monica Lewinsky ever was.

Janet Reno, the attorney gen-eral, has been stewing about all the independent persecutor's transgressions: how his team manhandled Ms. Lewinsky at the mall, how his office leaked and leaked, how Mr. Starr steamrolled the attorney general into expanding his authority into the Lewinsky affair without revealing his office's contacts with Paula Jones's lawyers.

Even though the president thinks the prosecutor is evil, he is loath to play Richard Nixon to Mr. Starr's Archibald Cox.

But when it came out that Mr. Starr was calculating how he could indict Mr. Clinton on criminal charges while he is still in office, or the day he leaves for Hollywood, the Clinton crowd realized that a wooden stake might be required.

Beyond Mr. Starr's shy smile

New Air Strikes on Iraq

Regarding "U.S. Widening Its Targets in

against the American Goliath, an image that

is certainly not lost on Middle Eastern sens-

ibilities. Each day, Iraq can flip on its radar

for a few minutes and cause the United

States and Britain to scramble warplanes

and harl down millions of dollars worth of

missiles and bombs. Throwing money away

with a grand gesture is one thing, being tricked into squandering it is another, and the cooling of U.S. relations with the Gulf

states could stem less from their liking of

FRANK LUDWIG GROSSMANM.

seen in the company of fools.

from Julie Hiatt Steele, from Mr. Clinton Maybe poor Sidney Blumenthal is next. (Only Mr. Starr could inspire "poor" be-fore "Sidney Blumenthal.") Janet is all we have. She has

been fantasizing about slaying

Certainly there are oodles of reasons to can him. He wasted a federal fortune investigating all the serious issues — Whitewater, Travelgate, Filegate — that could have entailed the kind of public misconduct that Americans care about. He found nothing, and instead came up with a sizzling impeachment potboiler.
The New York Times reported

Wednesday that Justice Department officials were starting to build a case against the man who built the case against their boss.
David Johnston and Don Van
Natta revealed that Mr. Starr's
deputies assured Ms. Reno's de-

partment that they had not had any contact with the Paula Jones lawyers when they sought to expand their investigation into the president's affair with the intern. Based on contemporaneous

notes of that crucial meeting in January 1998, it appears that the Office of Independent Counsel hurks the heart of the undead. He comes back and back and back and back for more blood — from Webster misled the Justice Department, since Linda Tripp's fateful call to Mr. Starr's office was preceded



by a conversation between one of Mr. Starr's deputies and a lawyer who had worked on the Jones. case since 1994.

out to help the president, but really she may be rescuing the Republicans. The Republicans may not care about Mr. Starr's ethics. But they should care

about his incompetence.
The Republican Party is supposed to be the party of big business. If Mr. Starr were a CEO, the stockholders would be clamor-ing for his head. He tried a hostile takeover and lost. And the com-pany's stock has plummeted.

Despite public disdain for impeachment, Mr. Starr still managed to sell the House managers a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

weak case. The fact that the managers' case is entirely built on Mr. Starr's tainted enterprise is why it is impossible for reasonable It may seem that Ms. Reno is people to accept their arguments, even though most reasonable people believe the president lied and schemed to hide evidence.

After the House Republicans bullied the impeachment into the Senate, they were again led astray by Mr. Starr, who went to court to help them drag Ms. Lewinsky back from California. Any idiot should have known that on the stand, Ms. Lewinsky would try to protect the president, not bury him. She may have 'mixed emotions' about her former boyfriend, but she hates Mr. Starr

Boeing's Government Subsidies The Carving of Jordan

When things got rough for the Republicans, the independent counsel, with his tin ear for publie relations, made them worse: Word got ont of his musings about indicting the president while still in office.

People used to trust the Republicans to be practical. As Calvin Coolidge put it, "The chief business of the American people is business." But Mr. Starr, with cheerleading from the Christian right, helped turn Republicans into a party of scolds brandishing scarlet letters. Their new motto is more ominous: "Your business is our business.

So fire him, Janet, fire him, His business is our business. The New York Times.

U.S. Culture Is Thriving Despite All the Junk

By Geneva Overholser

WASHINGTON — Loathing the culture is as American as apple pie. Americans loathe it from the right, decrying rents in the nation's moral and social fabric, and yearning for traditions lost. Americans also loathe it from the left, bemoaning the distorting grip of capitalism and yearning for more government funding.

Even when good news pierces the gloom, as it has recently. Americans hasten to assert that,

MEANWHILE

socially and culturally, the country is still headed for hell in a handbasket. Take a recent piece in the National Journal called "This Perplexing Union":

On the eve of a new century, there is no escaping the good news," it says. But do not get too cheery: "Much of our popular culture is garbage, celebrity is almost infinitely more valued than achievement, there is little stigma to greed and materialism."

Last summer, the culture min-isters of 19 nations, including America's best friends, met in Ottawa to ponder how they could protect themselves and their culture from - well, from the United States and its culture. The Americans were not invited. So how exactly does it lonk

these days, this culture found by many so offensive, this 'moral rot" that some smell upon America? Let us check out a few indices of moral and cultural health, starting with young people.

After two decades of increase,

the proportion of high school students who have had sex has falled 11 percent in the 1990s, according to a federal report released last autumn. For the first time this decade, fewer than half reported having sex; among boys, the decline was particularly striking — 49 percent, versus 57 percent in 1991.

Or take alcohol. In 1980, 72 percent of high school seniors said they had consumed alcohol recently, compared with 51 percent in 1996. In 1985, 17 percent of students said they had tried cocaine, compared with 7 percent in 1996. Violent crime is at its lowest point in 25 years.
As for cultural indicators, a Cato

Institute report last autumn called "Is Our Culture in Decline?" cited rection it is coming from. some dramatic statistics.

The average American buys more than twice as many books today as in 1947. Television and the internet have clearly not van-

quished the book. From 1965 to 1990, the number of symphony orchestras in the United States grew from 58 to nearly 300, opera companies from 27 to more than 150, regional theaters from 22 to 500. Theater ticket sales are up. More American students are studying abroad.

Of course, American culture is far more diverse, a fact that en-riches or diminishes it, depending on your view. Some of the greatest cultural debates rage over the quick embrace of fleeting trends and the lack of respect for the great voices of the past. But Americans seem in fact to be blessed with a culture that can appreciate Mozart even as it enables wemen songwriters and singers to seer.

Laments over cultural decline echo through history. Listen to this 1808 European observer on the tragedy of the proliferation of popular novels through circulating in braries: There is scarcely a street of the metropolis, or a village in the country, in which a circulating library may not be found, nor is there a corner of the empire, where the English language is understood, that has not suffered from the effects of this institution."

Today, Americans focus on some foul-mouthed rapper as if he were the sum total of all that they do and think, look at and listen to as if he were somehow more representative of American culture than Duke Ellington or Martha Graham or Alfred Hitchcock.

All of this is not to say Americans could not use some uplift. For exactly this purpose, the poet and author Czeslaw Milosz assembled "A Book of Luminous Things." It is an anthology of poetry - an art form which, as Mr. Milosz says, "cannot look at things of this earth other than as colorful, variegated and exciting, and so it cannot reduce life, with all its pain, horror, suffering and ecstasy, to a unified tonality of boredom or complaint."

A frequent review of the many good things going on around us, and a dip into Mr. Milosz's delightful collection: There's a fine cure for pessimism, whatever di-The Washington Post.

Nices are the second

BOOKS

thralled), is a bit inexplicable,

BRIDGE

and after a while you sense Hoelterhoff's frustration.

Here was "a smooth, glim-

CINDERELLA & COMPANY Backstage at the Opera

With Cecilia Bartoli By Manuela Hoelterhoff. Illustrated: 262 pages. \$25. Alfred. A. Knopf. Reviewed by

Anthony Tommasini . . MANUELA HOELTER-HOFF'S backstage look at the Cecilia Bartoli Sook at the Cecilia Bartoli a biographer growing jaded the most subject. From the first time bunner for prestige, the 55perceptive and hilariously

ind marketing of opera to of Rossini's 'Barber of come along in some time.

Seville,' she was smitten. But it did not turn out quite the way Hoelterhoff, a mering truffle of a voice," Pulitzer Prize-winning former critic and editor at The Wall Company," "astonishing in Street Journal, intended. The its virtuosity and range." original idea was to provide a

behind-the-scenes report on must have seemed insuffian indisputably excellent cient for an entire book. So, singer who had achieved sen-dational popularity before her hoff introduces us to just sational popularity before her 30th hirthday.

For two years, leading up to met during those two years, new production of Bartoli's interspersed with collected For two years, leading up to "Cenerentola" at the Met in 1997, Hoelterhoff had enviable access to the singer and her circle: her mother, a signature opera, Rossini's hits of wisdom and gossip. former chorus soprano and couple, Roberto Alagna and still Bartoli's most trusted vo- Angela Gheorghiu, the surcal coach; her worldly Italian boyfriend; her savvy manager, Jack Mastroianni, and a 250-2016 real planning meetings for the book. There is ample evidence of her superb ample evidence of her superb musicianship, determination whole cast of recording ex- Rence Fleming, the new gen- and unconventionally interecutives and attendant con- eration and much more. The esting career choices, like ductors who pass through the resulting book is a bit of this, a that of making her Met debut stary like comprimatio charbit of that. But Hoelterhoff is in Mozart's "Cosi Fan acters in an opera buffa.

fraq" (Feb. 4): "Each day, Iraq perfects its role as a David

Regarding "Elia Kazan Deserves Oscar for Talens and Integrity" (Meanwhile, Jan. 27) by Richard Cohen;

Elia Kazan, Teacher of Actors

Mr. Kazan also deserves recognition for the creation of a unique idea that had a wider influence on the cinema than his remarkable films: the founding of the Actors' Studio.

. It was and remains a place where inexperienced and professional actors could meet on equal terms without charge. Mr. Kazan modestly called it "a place for ac-tors to get out of the rain." It provided far more than that. At the height of his career, Mr. Kazan would spend hours with me and Saddam than from their reductance to be other beginners teaching us that our greatest asset was our own experience.

JACK GARFEIN. Paris.

Yet, though Bartoli was and beguiling writer that you role of Despina, the maid. "I want to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted an exasperating subject. Ultimately the reason this particular Italian mezzo-soprano, gifted as she is, has generated canto as a tradition in which such tenseions lovalty particular italian mezzo-soprano canto as a tradition in which such tenseions lovalty particular italian mezzo-soprano. "embeddings for the maid. "I want to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and maybe change perceptions of what is a debut at the Met."

"embeddings for the maid. "I want to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as saying, "and to have some pleasure out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as a tradition in which say and the manufacture out of my debut, "and the manufacture out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as a tradition in which say and the manufacture out of my debut, "and the manufacture out of my debut," Bartoli is quoted as a saying and the manufacture out of my debut, "and the manufacture

such tenacious loyalty, particularly among her American scales, interpolations and fans (the Italian public has good taste were expected even for missing performances.

The property of the performances and spective on Bartoli's penchant for missing performances.

Several notable cancellations

elist's ability to capture a per-

Regarding "Boeing Abandons Super-sonic Jetliner" (Feb. 8):

The article suggests that one of the reasons for Boeing abandoning its plans to develop a supersonic airliner was competition in the global aerospace market from "government-subsidized competitors in Europe." This is a very thinly veiled allegation against Airbus Industrie. But the article clearly demonstrates that Boeing receives subsidies from the U.S. government. How else would you describe the \$1.6 billion mentioned in the article that NASA poured into the supersonic jetliner's development? This development money would have benefited only Bocing.

seem to have been genuinely

Regarding "Hussein Risked Assassins and Arab Wrath" (Feb. 8):

The writer states that Winston Churchill, then Britain's colonial secretary, "carved" Transjordan out of Syria. However, Transjordan was "carved" out of the Palestine British Mandate and not out of Syria. It constituted two-thirds of the mandate. In 1948, Transjordan, renamed Jordan, annexed the West Bank. The Palestine Mandate comprised adequate territory for the eventual establishment of two states, one Arab and one Jewish. The present quandary in the region lies in the difficulties in "carving" out a viable third state in the remaining third of the original mandate.
HENRYK EISENBERG. e benefited only Borang.

STEPHEN KLEIN.

Henryk Eisenberg.

Rehovot, Israel.

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146,000 PEOPLE IN 148 COUNTRIES SOLVING COMPLEX PROBLEMS.

thralled), is a bit inexplicable,	elist's ability to capture a per-	seem to have been genuinely	
and after a while you sense	son in a few wry phrases. Here	precipitated by illness, travel	Arts
Hoelterhoff's frustration.	she is on Joseph Volpe, gen-	snafus and even personal	
This is not a typical case of	eral manager of the Met: "A blunt guy with an opera vil-	tragedy: During the years covered in the book, Bartoli's	DAVID HAMLTON, art photographer,
a biographer growing jaded the more she learns about her	lain's chin beard and a healthy	beloved younger brother died	porteture, books, prints hispathemilion-enchives.com
subject. From the first time	hunger for prestige, the 55-	of a brain tumor. But some-	Arthor
Hoelterhoff encountered Bar-	year-old Volpe had now	times her cancellations are	www.adnet.com
toli's singing, on a recording	muscled his way past Levine	maddening to read about, as	Thursbul Gallery
of Rossini's 'Barber of	on the totem pole, acquiring	when a healthy Barton pulled	www.shevibu.com
Seville," she was smitten.	excellent suits and independ-	out of a live broadcast of "Co-	www.artnetgallery.com
Here was 'a smooth, glim-	ent taste along the way."	si" because two lead male	international contemporary art
mering truffle of a voice,"	Because of Hoelterhoff's	singers were ill, and Levine,	
she writes in "Cinderella & Company," "astonishing in	reputation as an unsparing critic and reporter, it is amaz-	also ill, was stuck in another city. That millions in the in-	Automobiles
its virtuosity and range."	ing that so many people in the	ternational radio audience	NETLEASE LTD - CONTRACT HIRE
Still the Bartoli material	business talked with her so	were counting on hearing her	MANN VOGESSECOTOR ANAMORICO (1987 COLL)
must have seemed insuffi-	freely, notably the powerful	did not seem to matter.	
cient for an entire book. So,	manager and public relations	But never the most mellow	Books
happily for readers, Hoeher-	maestro Herbert Breslin,	bunch, opera singers have to	
hoff introduces us to just	whom Hoelterhoff calls a	put up with pushy managers.	AMAZONLCOM WWW.STREZON.COM
about everyone operatic she	motor-mouthed, bullet-	chieless directors and drafty rehearsal rooms and still ex-	I W WAR IN LANGUE
met during those two years,	headed, forever tan egoma- niac." Breslin's soliloquy on	ercise their unearthly voices	Education .
interspersed with collected	how he and his prime client,	in the most difficult vocal	Education
hits of wisdom and gossip. We read about the great Ren-	Luciano Pavarotti, showed	music ever conceived. If any-	(2)
ata Tebaldi's first visit to the	everyone how real money	thing, with the current eco-	(3)
United States in 20 years, op-	could be made in opera is	nomic squeeze in the record-	DISTITUT DE FRANÇAIS
ra's self-absorbed new love	breathtaking in its honesty	ing industry, not to mention	hitp://www.insituidelrancels.com
couple, Roberto Alagna and	and shamelessness.	instant worldwide communi-	American Int'l School Satzburg
Angela Gheorghiu, the sur-	The sections on Bartoli are	cations, there is more pres-	www.aie-ealthurg.com
real planning meetings for	the heart of the book. There is	sure than ever.	AMERICAN SCHOOL In SWITZERLAND
lames Levine's gargantuan	ample evidence of her superb	Hoelterhoff makes few predictions, either about Bar-	www.jasis.com
25th anniversary celebration,	musicianship, determination	toli or the field in general. But	ALISTERDAM INST. of Finance
Rence Fleming, the new gen-	and unconventionally inter- esting career choices, like	it is immensely fun and in-	Upcoming Couses 1996 see: www.alt.nl
eration and much more. The	that of making her Met debut	formative to read her account	BOSTON U. BRUSSELS/PARIS
resulting book is a bit of this, a	in Mozart's "Cosi Fan	of the problems.	www.BostonU.be
oit of that. But Hochterhoff is	Tutte" in the relatively small	New York Times Service	CHATEAU DE LA GAGNOTTERE

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ADA CAR & VAN RENTALS

toli or the field in general. it is immensely fun and formative to read her acco of the problems. New York Times Service

such an interesting observer Tutte" in the relatively small

By Alan Truscott

NE of the most remarkable recoveries of 1998 occurred in the semifinal of the

would generate a swing. Could they win by outhidding their opponents? Or by out-

member of the Cohen team, in Atlantic. his bridge column in The Times of London.

group headed by David Price. opening lead is a heart, South rested.

All impressive resurgence folis most unlikely to lose a spades. An impressive resurgence national distriction of the and his teammates and his teamm needed an exciting deal that mond position or a winning have saved the day by finess-

.The heart lead made South Schapiro.

happy, but he was wrapped in Gold Cup, Britain's equivalent Consider North-South's gloom when he led to the of the Vanderbilt Knockout prospects in six spades. The spade ace, continued with the Reams. Playing in London with 40 of 64 deals completed aftern led by Howard Cohen trailed by 57 imps against a group headed by David Price opening lead is a heart, South rested cautiously in four

heart finesse. ing the spade nine, elearly
North-South for the Price the wrong play in theory
team bid were Ginnar Hall-but the right one on this
berg and Colin Simpson. occasion. Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they won by They bid as shown to six The other four members Paradoxically, they w

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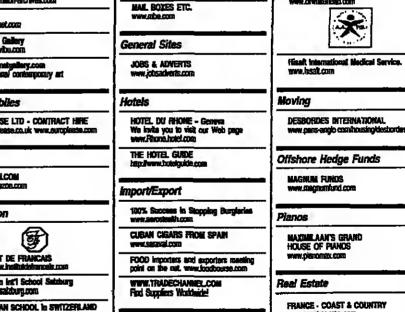
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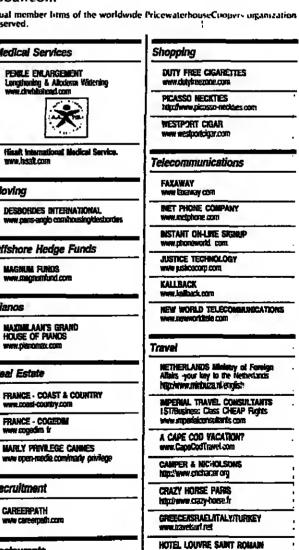
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INTERNATIONAL

NATO Prepares a Force **To Disarm Combatants**

Advance Unit of 10,000 Ready to Move Fast

By William Drozdiak

BERLIN — The NATO alliance is planning to send an advance force of up to 10,000 troops into Kosovo to begin disarming combatants within days if a peace agreement is reached between the Serbian authorities and ethnic Albanian leaders, alliance military and diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

NATO ambassadors in Brussels approved an accelerated timetable to minimize delay between a prospective peace deal and its enforcement by allied military forces.

The international community has set a Feb. 19 deadline for agreement between to bolster the French-led extraction force Serhian and ethnic Albanian negotiators, who are meeting under French and British mediation in Rambouillet outside

Senior NATO diplomats said all operational concepts for the vanguard "en-abling force" should be completed by Monday so the necessary troops could be deployed in the vicinity of the southern Serbian province in order to move in quickly once a peace settlement is

Military officials said the first soldiers to hit the ground in Kosovo would come from an allied rapid reaction force based in Rheindahlem, Germany, and commanded by Lieutenant General Mike Jackson of Britain.

Those troops would join up with 1,700 members of a French-led force already based in Macedonia.

They were sent there to stand by to protect about 1.000 civilian monitors sent to Kosovo to verify the terms of a truce reached in October that has all but

fallen apart. Along with Britain and France, Germany, Italy and Spain are planning to contribute the lion's share of soldiers to the NATO-led force, alliance military sources said.

President Bill Clinton has said only that he would "seriously consider" doing so, but NATO officials said there was unanimous consent in allied capitals that an American presence — even as small as 2,000 soldiers - would be a vital ingredient for success.

"We cannot bave the Americans out and only the Europeans present on the a senior European diplomat said. "That is a recipe for the kind of policy disaster that took place in Bos-

Alliance ambassadors also agreed that there would be no question of "dual key" arrangements and that the commander of a Kosovo peacekeeping force would report directly to the North At-

lantic Council. France bad suggested that the sixnation Contact Group — the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy - should be consulted coocerning any air strikes, but this idea was

By Jane Perlez

RAMBOUILLET, France - In the

bush of Kosovo, Hashim Thaci is known

as "Snake." No one seems to be quite

sure why, but some suggest that the 29-

Swiss university has the ability to slither

For the negotiators at the Kosovo peace talks, Mr. Thaci is a key figure —

lough, smart, ambitious and arrogant.

But diplomats who know Mr. Thaci as

head of the Political Directorate of the

rebels' Kosovo Liberation Army say it is

hard to figure out exactly how he thinks

Thaci was open to Western ideas and

democratic institutions. Another said Mr.

Thaci might be influenced by Marxism.

in the 16-member ethnic Albanian del-

egation to the peace talks, and to a lesser

extent on the Serbian side, are among the

many factors that make it difficult to

there are three men of known quantity-

men who are adjutants to the Yugoslav

Of the top Serhian delegates, Western diplomats are quite familiar with Nikola

Sainovic, a deputy prime minister of

Yugoslavia and the point man for Mr.

Milosevic in Kosovo, and with Ratko

Markovic, a Serbian deputy prime min-

The close involvement of Mr. Sain-

ovic in Kosovo was illustrated last month

after telephone conversations he had with

a Serbian general, Sreten Lukic, were

monitored by Western diplomats. They

showed that Mr. Sainovic had tried to

cover up circumstances of a massacre of

ethnic Albanian civilians at the Kosovo

A report by monitors concluded the

In the conversations, Mr. Sainovic

Mr. Sainovic is known around Bel-

grade as "Saya Patton" - a nickname

intended to show his preference for

fessor, represents Mr. Milosevic by or-

daining as legal whatever political ma-

scorched-earth tactics.

killings had been retaliation by Serbs for

the ambush killing of four of their men.

could be heard asking if it would be

Kosovo Liberation Army and the Serbs.

village of Racak, diplomats said.

In the 13-member Serbian delegation,

predict the outcome of the talks here.

leader, Slobodan Milosevic.

One diplomat said he believed Mr.

Such uncertainties about the characters

away from battles - just in time.

or where he stands.

A Duel of Personalities

NATO military officials said the key consideration for them was to get peacekeeping troops deployed quickly to keep any peace deal from unraveling.

In the case of enforcing the Bosnia peace agreement, NATO forces were mobilized during a three-week hiatus between the conclusion of the Dayton accords and signing of a peace agreement in Paris.

But in Kosovo, alliance forces will not have any extra time to prepare for their mission if a deal is worked by the fixed deadline. As a result, military planners have settled on the idea of dispatching a heavily armed advance guard known as

"Tier Three" forces already in training The initial deployment of up to 10,000

troops would eventually be supplemented by other soldiers from alliance and other countries that could hring the NATO-led force level in Kosovo as high as 30,000 - depending on the degree of cooperation they receive from the Serbs and the ethnic Albanian rebels.

Foreign Minister Zivadin Jovanovic of Yngoslavia warned this week that his country, embracing the republics of Ser-hia, which includes the province of Kosovo, and Montenegro, would "under no conditions" accept the presence of foreign troops on its soil.

The State Department spokesman, James Ruhin, said that Belgrade's failure to accept the peace implementation force could be sufficient to trigger NATO air strikes.

"They would be making a big mistake to hold up this agreement over the ques-tion of allowing forces in if the Kosovo Albanians are prepared to do so," Mr. Rubin said.

NATO officials said they were op-timistic that the Serbs would ultimately give "passive" consent to a peacekeep-ing force once they realized it would be in their own interests.

The Serbs are being asked to draw down their security forces from 10,000 to 2,500 under the terms of the interim peace proposal. If they do so, the sources said, the Serbs will recognize the value of NATO soldiers disarming and keeping in check the Kosovo Liberation Army, whose guerrillas have been waging bloody hit-and-run tactics against Serbs for the past year.

'The Serbs may never openly say yes to the presence of foreign troops in Kosovo, but we expect that in the end they will not say no, either," a senior diplomat said. "If they did so, the alternatives are pretty bortful."

■ Serbian President Awaited

President Milan Miluthovic of Serbia is expected at the peace talks on Thursday, Agence France-Presse reported from Rambouillet.

istry said the co-bosts of the peace conference would also return on Thursday.

a ruling that provoked demonstrations.

two sides sequestered bere, the com-

plexities of the ethnic Albanian dele-

gation are the most important to grasp.

But more vital to the negotiators will

be the figures from the insurgency and

publisher who presents himself as an

Albanian politics. The son of a Yugoslav

and the fairly ineffective Mr. Rugova.

Mr. Surroi can often be found in the restaurants of Pristina, the capital of

circulation paper in Kosovo, he has an important platform.
So far, Mr. Surroi has shown a sort of

colleagues say he has made little secret of

his ambition to be president of Kosovo.

An important Kosovo Liberation

Army official in the delegation is Jakup

Krasniqi, who was imprisoned by the Serbs for eight years. Western diplomats in Kosovo who

dealt with Mr. Krasniqi during a recent crisis, involving the release of eight

Yugoslav soldiers captured by the guer-

rillas, described him as fair. He is part of

the rebels' directorate that holds togeth-

In the last few months, Mr. Krasniqi

has made a point of traveling in many

regions of Kosovo, diplomats said, and

seems to have concluded that the fight-

ing should end. "He knows the rank and

Almost unknown to the negotiators is

From ontside Kosovo, Bnjar Bukoshi,

Xhavid Haliti, a key organizer for the

er a network of warlords.

tains into Kosovo.

possible to make the killings look as if file don't want more fighting." said an

neuver Mr. Milosevic needs, according to Serbs. In 1996, Mr. Markovic found legal justification for overturning local Serbian a urologist based in Germany, has been the major fund-raiser for the money coming from Albanians living abroad.

they were the result of a battle between the American who knows him.

But as the negotiators deal with the



Bodo Hombach, standing, and Claudios Fischbach of the German Embassy explaining the proposal in Washington.

Bonn to Compensate Victims of Nazis

In Move to Avoid Lawsuits, State Agrees to Start Fund Financed by Industry

By David E. Sanger New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - The German government said it had agreed in principle to establish a buge compensation fund, financed by the higgest names in German industry and banking, to compensate victims of Nazi borrors. The proposal, announced here Tues-

day by a top aide of Germany's new chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, appears to be an effort to short-circuit a wave of lawsuits in American courts against German companies that used slave labor and forced labor during World War II or profited from seizures of assets belonging to Jews and other victims of the

German officials said the size of the fund was still to be determined. But they have made it clear that they want to avoid the kind of international bruising that Switzerland suffered for nearly two years as its government fought legal and dip-lomatic action against Swiss banks. Ultimately, the two largest banks in Switzer-land reached a \$1.25 billion settlement that was formally signed last month.

At a news conference here Tnesday, Mr. Schroeder's chief of staff, Bodo Hombach, said it would take some time before the German government, its major corporations, Jewish groups and lawyers the size of a fund to resolve ontstanding

claims against German companies.

But participants in the talks said they thought the amount paid by the Swiss banks would be a starting point and that the German settlement - which is likely to include Deutscha Bank AG, Daimler-Benz AG, Volkswagen AG, Siemens AG and others — could easily reach into the billions of dollars.

What the German concerns want in return is exactly what the Swiss got: a 'global' agreement that ends virtually all such suits. Mr. Hombach also suggested Tuesday that Germany had concluded, after watching the Swiss experience, that a prolonged fight was not in the interest of the country or its

"You could legally win and lose your reputation," he said In many ways the Swiss and German

cases are not comparable: Switzerland was neutral in the war, and the suits against its banks marked the first time in half a century that the Swiss had been confronted with their mixed wartime -In contrast, successive generations of

Germans have wrestled with their naday that since Germany's surrender in provides a new means for them to expand 1945, the government had paid 140 bil-their operations around the world.

representing Holocaust victims settled on lion Deutsche marks, or about \$80 billion at current exchange rates, in war eparations and aid.

But there has never been a settlement by German companies, including those that forced East Europeans to work in wartime factories for little or no pay. The German announcement, which

came after lengthy negotiations Monday at the U.S. State Department, won praise from the World Jewish Congress, which pressed the Swiss case and has been a central player in the negotiations with But lawyers for the plaintiffs in the suits, who have often been at odds with

the World Jewish Congress, were more cautious. Several said that a meeting here Monday night with Mr. Hombach had marked the beginning of a dialogue but that it was premature to say any kind of agreement was in the offing. The talks to reach a settlement are

likely to be difficult, given the com-peting interests of Jewish groups, plaintiffs and lawyers, some of whom are still haggling over their fees for the settlement with Swiss banks. The German companies have an ex-

traordinary incentive to come to some kind of settlement, especially now that the tional legacy. Mr. Hombach said Mon- euro, the common European currency,

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CAMP LEJEUNE, North Caroina — The commander of a Marine pilot being count-martialed for an accident that killed 20 people in an Italian ski gondola last year has sharply criticized the pilot's conduct during the flight. The commander, Lieutenant Col-

onel Richard Muegge, testified that the crew's decisions to carry a video camera in the cockpit and to execute a 360-degree roll during the low-altitude flight were unsafe and unwise. The statement from an immediate supervisor, on the second day of the court-martial here, was seen as a damaging assessment of the defendant, Captain Richard Ashby, 31, of Mission Viejo, California.

Captain Ashby, whose aircraft sliced through a cable over a winter resort in the Dolomites and sent the gondola plummeting to the ground, could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted on the 20 counts of involuntary manslanghter lodged (WP) against him.

Madrid Opposes Meeting of Kurds

MADRID - Eager not to upset Turkey, the Spanish government intends doing all it can to prevent a meeting of a Kurdish "parliament-in-exile" in the northern Basque region, the interior minister said

The minister, Jaime Mayor Oreja, said the proposed Kurdish meeting, which would be held in July, was "a propaganda exercise for a terrorist group." Turkey has expressed strong dis-

approval over the decision Tuesday by the Basque regional parliament to play host to the Kurdish group, made up of 65 Kurds who live in various European cities. (AP)

NATOAllies to Meet

BONN — Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany was to fly to Washington on Thursday for a meeting with President Bill Clinton on issues expected to range from NATO strategy to Holocaust compensation claims. Mr. Schroeder and his wife will meet Mr. Clintonfor lunch at the White House and return to Bonn later in the day. German news organizations have been reporting that the U.S. president is concerned about Bonn's ideas about

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Min- AVALANCHE: At French Ski Resort, a Search for Survivors Continues After 10 Die

Chamonix area Wednesday, officials At the Rambouillet Talks, said, but there were no reports of in-The people killed in the avalanche

Tuesday included four children, three men and three women, the police said. Earlier, more than 20 people were pulled out of the snow alive. Five of the survivors suffered from minor injuries. elections that opposition parties had won.

Meanwhile, rescue workers Wednesday were renewing their search for a 28year-old British skier in the French Alpine resort of Courchevel. The skier, who was not identified, was skiing off marked trails Tuesday when hit by an

Ibrahim Rugova, who has been twice Snowslides killed at least three people year-old political-science graduate of a elected president of Kosovo by the ethnic Albanians, is known well to the negotiators for his decade-long campaign of nonviolent resistance to Serbian rule. ski station

The avalanches resulted from an estimated 150 centimeters (5 feet) of new snow that fell in the Swiss Alps since nize how quickly the economy was Veton Surroi, a prominent newspaper Sunday, said Martin Schneebeli, of the slowing," said David Mackie, an econindependent in the murky world of ethnic federal avalanche research center, located in Davos.

"This is one of the largest snowfalls we've had," he said. "It's the worst since the winter of 1984-85, 15 years diplomat to Mexico and Bolivia, Mr. Surroi speaks excellent English and is a favorite of diplomats visiting Kosovo. But his blunt manner and often conago." The situation is expected to improve "because there is not as much trary opinions bave not won him favor in snow coming in the next days," said Roland Meister, an avalanche foresome quarters of the U.S. State Department. Even so, Washington recognizes him as perhaps the best bridge between the militant Kosovo Liberation Army

Lives are claimed almost every winter, especially those of skiers and snowboarders who leave designated tracks, but this winter, thus far, has seen 12 people Kosovo, cell phone at hand, and as the publisher of Koha Ditore, the largest-particularly bad winter of 1969-70 saw 56 people lose their lives, buried under casimportant platform. cades of snow. In 1985, 11 passengers in cars were swept away in snowslides on the Tasch-to-Zermatt route.

for safety reasons in parts of the Swiss tuality, faced problems. At Interlaken, in of Galtuer. Alps, including the key Gothard Tunnel hard-hit middle Switzerland, the post route between Italy and Switzerland. office had to deliver mail by boat.

That route was opened late Wednesday. While some areas in Switzerland's central region, the Bernese Oberland, remained cut off by heavy snowfalls, train service was mostly restored Wednesday after 24 hours of disruption, altinued to run late.

Some 1,500 passengers at Zurich's reporting delays of up to three hours. that the Austrian Army on Wednesday lives last year.

Thousands of tourists were stranded

in mountain resorts, unable to leave be-Some resorts, including Grindelwald, helicoptered out some tourists. Other tourists were being bonsed in

though trains in the Zurich area con- bunkers build decades ago as bomb shel-

A record snowfall trapped an esti-Kloten Airport had to be put up in botels mated 6,000 tourists in the popular Tyrol because of travel delays at Swissair's area of Austria, with many still unable to buh. On Wednesday, the airport was leave after five days. Reuters reported

Roads and railroad tracks were closed Even the Swiss post, famed for its punc- airlifted supplies to tourists in the resort Icy conditions also resulted in ac-

cidents, which blocked the Inntal expressway for several hours. In Eastern Europe, an avalanche in cause of the heavy snow accumulation. northwestern Romania blocked a highway, although no injuries were reported, The Associated Press said.

With severe weather moving south, Slovenia's Ljubljana airport was also

In Italy, there were serious traffic

problems due to wind, rain and snow and a landslide alert was issued in one area where serious mudslides claimed 100

in Switzerland earlier this week, including a couple inside their restaurant at a BRITAIN: Brink of Recession Is Near, Bank of England Warns

Continued from Page 1

omist at J.P. Morgan & Co. Like most private-sector economists, Mr. Mackie contended that the economy has been throttled by the inflation-fighting zeal of the Monetary Policy Committee.

The committee, set up and given con-trol over interest rates just days after the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair took power in 1997, drove rates up to a peak of 7.5 percent last summer to prevent high wage increases from stoking inflationary pressures. Those in-creases and the subsequent rise in the value of the pound have stymied British manufacturers and then fed into the broader economy.

Many analysts now predict the economy will slide into recession, marked by a decline in output, during the first half of this year before recovering.

"The risks are very much on the it said that some of the nine members on downside," Mr. Mackie said. He prepercent by the end of this year.

Mervyn King, the bank's deputy director, declined to comment on whether the bank's past interest-rate moves were weakness of the global economy and productivity gains in Britain.

The idea that inflation could run at or wrong in hindsight, saying only that the Monetary Policy Committee did its best to assess the latest economic data.

He also stressed that the slowdown of the global economy as a result of fi-nancial crises in Asia, Russia and lately Brazil represented "quite a significant change" in economic circumstances. Still, be acknowledged that the com-

mittee had found the policymaking dif-ficuli in its early days. "We are all a little older, perhaps a little wiser," Mr. King

In its report, the central bank projected that inflation would remain around the government-mandated target

dicted that the bank would lower rates to the inflation trend will run about 0.2 percentage point lower because of the

> below target was regarded as good news for the inflation-prone economy.
>
> "For the first time in a generation, people expect low inflation," Mr. King said. "And for most of last year inflation."

was close to the target." ■ Consumers Urged to Buy More

The Bank of England governor, Eddie George, said Wednesday that higher domestic demand was needed in industrialized countries to stem the slowdown arising from loss of exports, Bloomberg News reported from London. "We can afford to see higher do-

mestic demand," Mr. George said at a of 2.5 percent for the next two years. But conference.

RUSSIA: Deterioration of Nuclear-Attack Warning System Raises Fears Among Analysts; Continued from Page 1

early-warning risks, the launching of a Norwegian scientific rocket in 1995 triggered a false alarm that was reported all the way up to Mr. Yeltsin.

At the time of the 1983 alarm, the

Soviet satellites positioned to detect U.S. ballistic-missile launchings had been on station for only about a year. Launched into a high elliptical orbit, the satellites did not look directly down at the hot exhaust of a rocket.

To keep tabs on U.S. missile fields, an array of satellites was needed. The full rebels. He has been based in Tirana, the early-warning system of that era had nine Albanian capital, and appears to have satellites. On the day of the false alarm, corched-earth tactics.

By contrast, Mr. Markovic, a law proflow over the northern Albanian mounPaul Podvig, a research associate at the Paul Podvig, a research associate at the Center for Arms Control, Energy and

missile fields. That same system is still in use, but because of its crippling financial problems Russia has not pot an The situation in the last six years wasn't April. Some existing satellites ceased working last year, and, according to Mr. reserves. The problem is serious." Podvig, the system now has only three

system in the late 1980s - this one in geostationary orbit, meaning that these satellites remain fixed above one place one sited to cover some of the gaps in the original array of satellites. Gaps remain, however. Every 24

hours, the high elliptical satellite system is blind during two periods; one is nearly long, Mr. Podvig said. Even with the help publics that now are independent counof the geostationary satellite, there is a

early-warning satellite into orbit since good, but they had reserves. They kept it working. Now, they have used up those Theodore Postol, a professor at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The Soviets created a second satellite said the satellites in geostationary orbit were in the late 1980s — this one in were incapable of looking down into any ocean. That, he said, leaves Russia with 'no space-based early warning against the Earth; rather, they peered at an angle, on the Earth's surface. Two of these are the most potent threat its land-based depending on infrared waves to identify still functioning, Mr. Podvig said, with forces face: the U.S. Trident submarinelaunched ballistic missiles." Mr. Postol said Russia's system of

ground-based early-warning radar had also been degraded because many intries. The situation is risky, he said, in

reliable information. But Mr. Podvig said he was not as worried as Mr. Postol about Russia's early-warning prob-

"If you consider Cold War scenarios, a lack of early warning is a realiy bad; thing," he said. "You can come up with all kinds of first-strike scenarios. But I'm not that pessimistic. My,

view is that, even if Russia has no early end warning capability, no radars, no satel-lites, and still relies on intercontinental ballistic missiles and launch-on-warning, in any crisis, Russia will still have to be taken seriously."

So far, little has been done to reduce the threat of nuclear miscalculation. At a summit meeting in September in staliations were built on the periphery of Moscow, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin six hours long, the other about an hour the Soviet Union, in former Soviet reannounced plans to share early-warning.

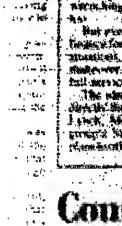
missile-launching information.
'It was a good first step,' Mr. Postol Environmental Studies in Moscow.

Mr. Podvig said the seven satellites

"Over the last five or six years, Ruswere sufficient to cover all the U.S.

Lattit could drive Russia more and more said, "but the administration hasn't done anything to implement it, and they taliate, one that would be based on less have no vision of follow-on steps."

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Herald Eribune

PAGE 11

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Complete to our startial her seem as a damaging assessment defendant. Captain Richard TOKYO — Prime Minister Keizo Chuchi urged the Japanese central bank Wednesday to buy government bonds to keep a rise in long-term interest rates from choking off an economic recovery.

gondola plummeting to the sentenced to the sentence to the sentenc

Madrid Opposes Madrid Oppose, has a policy-setting meeting Friday. Its chief, Masarn Hayami, is reported to have told Parliament on Tuesday that the central bank has no intention of changing its basic policy.

Turkey, the Spanish governments basic policy.

The administration's comments Wednesday doing all it can to have administration's stance, highlighted a growing struggle between Mr. Obuchi's administration and the central bank over

region, the interior mains how to save Japan's ailing economy.

Wethersday.

Interest rates have risen sharply in The minister, Jame & recent months on worries the govern-Oreja, said the proposed is ment will flood the market with new meeting, which would be bonds to finance increased public works buly, was "a propagando es spending. The yield on the benchmark Turkey has expressed sing to 2.065 percent Wednesday from 1.985 approval over the decision he percent a day earlier. The rate had by the Rasque regional pair dropped as low as 0.7 percent last year. to play host to the Kudshg Mr. Obuchi's government wants the made up of 65 Kurds who Bank of Japan to huy bonds, which various European care would most likely drive up prices and bring interest rates back down.

NATOAllies to he government would be borrowing from itself — and essentially printing more Chanceller Ge money, something the Bank of Japan

Schroeder of Germany was fears will rekindle inflation.

Washington on Thursday of Investors are skeptical the central bank will announce at its meeting Friday that it will buy more government bonds on the secondary market. "Nobody expects the BOJ to come up with something on Friday," said Jun Fukashiro, a fund manager at NCB Investment Management Co. return to Bonn later in the date agement Co.

man news or anneations have presenting that the US pest monetary policy was reignized by an article in the Wall Street Journal saying article sayin Meanwhile, speculation that the emphasize monetary policy.

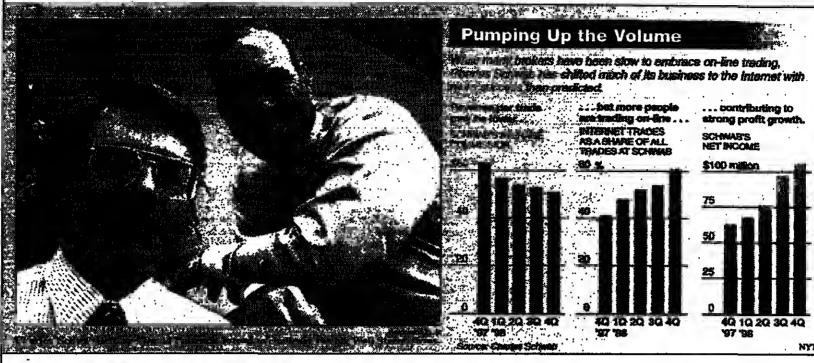
The article, which quoted no gov-emment sources, said the U.S. government now believed that Tokyo's deficit spending alone would not solve Japan's woes and that without monetary expansion, rising interest rates could mute the effect of public spending.

It also said the administration was

loy conditions also resulted m, which blocked the lie willing to accept the weakening of the Fyon that would ensue and the boost that would give to America's already huge northwestern Remains blockeds

The Associated Press and The U.S. ambassador to Japan, Thomas Foley, said Wednesday that With severe weather moved there were as yet no signs that Japan's ma's Limbliana airpoil 43: economy was bottoming out this year and that Tokyo should persist with stimin Italy, there were sense ulus as well as deregulation and banking due to wind, rain anise bendalide alers was resuct in a

The senior government spokesman, Hiromu Nonaka, has repeatedly noted that Japan bought U.S. Treasury securifles in the 1980s. On Tuesday he said, The United States should consider maintaining the balance when our coun-'s economy is in bad shape."
(AP, Reuters, Bloomberg)



Making a Profit on the Net: Schwab Pulls It Off

By Joseph Kahn
New York Times Service

AN FRANCISCO — There are many brandname banks and brokerage houses battling on the front lines of American investing. Only one of them, Charles Schwab Corp., has made peace with the Internet.

Schwab, the quarter-century-old discount broker that has long cast itself as a Wall Street outsider, has converted most of its brokerage business to the Internet with an ease that few analysts expected.

Moreover, it has quickly come to dominate the booming business of trading stocks on-line. Its giant computing center in Phoenix, Arizona, handles almost a third of all Internet trading - meaning that one in 20 stock trades in America passes through the

All this has come while its rivals struggle with the

Merrill Lynch & Co., the biggest U.S. retail broker, will begin a limited on-line trading service soon, but like other full-service firms has been slow to embrace the Internet. E*Trade Group Inc., a leading on-line competitor, has suffered a streak of embarrassing trading shutdowns. Nearly all other Internet stock-trading companies talk of "earnings before marketing expenses" instead of profits.

But even as it becomes known as the Hondini of finance for its ability to squeeze profits out of difficult situations, it is undertaking an even trickier makeover. Schwab is trying to convert itself into a full-service brokerage firm for the Internet age.

The idea is to use the Web to challenge — more

directly than ever before — the retail arms of Merrill

Lynch, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., Citigroup's Salomon Smith Barney Inc. and others. It
plans to offer more advice, research, analytics and even

more of America's investment money than discount firms do, and it will use the Internet as its weapon.

A visit to the company's San Francisco headquarters is a bit like dropping in on a West Coast conpany to the company of the com

hand-holding to customers. Schwab is also fighting to carpets are earth tone and the fixtures gray stone — no distinguish itself from well-financed on-line trading marble or mahogany. And the nouns are all semiotic: competitors such as E*Trade, Ameritrade Holding Corp. and Waterhouse Securities Inc. that are clawing

at its on-line dominance and offering lower prices.

The transition will be closely watched by Schwab's competitors. All are trying to figure out how Americans will invest early in the next century, what role the Internet will play and how investmen advice will be distributed.

Schwab intends to hog the middle of the road, somewhere between Merrill on the full-service side and E*Trade on the discount side. But it will need sharp elbows to keep that space for itself.

It dominates the booming business of trading stocks on-line, while its full-service rivals struggle with the new medium.

"Our mission now is to create a new model of a full-service brokerage firm," said David Pottruck, Schwab's co-chief executive. "We are not a discount firm anymore."

But Mr. Pottruck was careful to distinguish his Schwab stands practically alone: It has made the vision from that of the existing full-service brokerage wrenching transition — and made money from it, firms. "I mean a new kind of full-service firm," he gives brokers free trips to Hawaii. Promoted to share the executive reins with the

chairman, Charles Schwab, a year ago, Mr. Pottruck has made his message resonate: Schwab intends to go after the big Wall Street firms, which control much more of America's investment money than discount firms do, and it will use the Internet as its weapon.

marble or mahogany. And the nonns are all semiotic; segmentation, alignment, high-tech, high-touch and empowerment.

But the mission is in many ways the logical extension of the idea that first prompted Mr. Schwah. 61, the company's founder, to pioneer discount brokerages in the 1970s; distrust of Wall Street. Schwab began as a refuge for investors who felt they had been burned by brokers who got commissions each time a stock was bought or sold.

Schwab did trades for less and paid its brokers in salary and bonuses, not commissions. Now it is starting to give its customers many of the tools that fullservice brokers and professional money managers have at their disposal but for a fraction of the cost.
Using the Web, Schwab thinks it can make the

desktops of its 2.2 million on-line customers resemble a broker's. Its Web site now has industry research from Standard & Poor's, insider-trading reports from Vickers, live interviews with chief executives from Briefing.com, stock research from Credit Suisse First Boston and Hambrecht & Quist and a proprietary screening service that can pinpoint equities that meet an investor's customized criteria.

Many of its features are free, though clients with less than \$100,000 in assets pay fees for research and some other services.

Schwab is also working out the kinks in an e-mail service that it says will make "warm calls" and "hot solicitations. The automated system is designed to monitor clients' portfolios and give them an electronic heads-up if prices moves up or down significantly or if

A visit to the company's San Francisco headquar- 275 branch offices, places where customers still go to

See SCHWAB, Page 17

Court Orders American Airlines Pilots Back to Work

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatche

DALLAS - American Airlines won a court order Wednesday forcing its pilots back to work, ending a work slowdown that threatened to snarl vacation travel over the long President's Day

U.S. District Court Judge Joe Kendall issued a temporary restraining order against American's 9,200 pilots after hearing attorneys for both the airline and

the Allied Pilots Association for about terms of the temporary restraining order which includes pilots' calling in sick and but agreed to talk with both sides about refusing to work overtime. four hours on Wednesday.

American Airlines had asked the

judge to force pilots to stop calling in sick and end a slowdown that has grounded 40 percent of daily flights.

'One thing is crystal clear: That is that the job action being taken is inappropriate and has to stop," Judge Kendall said in court in Dallas. The judge did not immediately set the

pany said it had asked a U.S. district at Reno Air Inc. to American standards judge for a restraining order to end the action by the Allied Pilots Association,

AMR Corp., the airline's parent company, said the labor dispute forced it to cancel 900 flights Wednesday, bringing the number of flights grounded since Saturday to more than 2,000. The company acid it had calculated a U.S. district.

See AIRLINE, Page 12

For LVMH, A Designer Purchase?

Armani's Chief Says Firm Is Negotiating to Buy It

MODENA, Italy — Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA, the world's leading luxury-goods maker, is negotiating to buy the Italian fashion house Giorgio Armani SpA, the head of Armani said Wednesday, hours after LVMH denied it

was buying another Italian fashion house, Gianfranco Ferre. Armani's managing director, Gu-seppe Brusone, said LVMH had been in contact with the Italian company for

"I confirm LVMH's interest in our group," Mr. Brusone said, noting that Bernard Arnault, the chairman of LVMH, unexpectedly attended Armani's fall-winter menswear collection in Milan on Jan. 13, taking a front-row seat.

Mr. Amault was in Milan at the time for talks with Gueci Group NV, and LVMH raised its stake in Gucci to 34.4 percent from 26.7 percent. But the French luxury-goods maker said it did not intend to take over the Florence-based com-

pany.
"You know that Arnault came to the Giorgio Armani show," Mr. Brusone said Wednesday. "Mr. Arnault discovered that the world of luxury goods is not only French but is also Italian." He was talking on the sidelines of an analysts' meeting with Simint SpA, an Italian clothing manufacturer controlled by Armani.

LVMH would not comment Wednesday, but it denied an Italian press report that Gianfranco Ferre had accepted a bid

from the French company.

"We formally deny this information, which is unfounded," said a spokesman for LVMH in Paris. Mr. Brusone said Armani was in talks

with several companies, Italian and fot-eign, in addition to LVMH, but that it

was 'not looking for a partner.''
''We're a hig group,'' he said, 'and
it's our duty to examine proposals and offers from other hig groups. Asked if proposals concerned an

equity partnership or a distribution alliance, Mr. Brusone said: "In our evaluation of possible alliances we are looking at all aspects — economic, financial and industrial as well as synergies. We just a matter of shareholding stakes. Armani said last year that plans for a bourse listing had been put on hold but

had not been abandoned altogether.

"It's one of the things we're evaluating," Mr. Brusone said. "But it's less interesting to us because one of the reasons companies go on the bourse is to raise money, and we don't need to."

He said that by the end of 1998 the Armani group will have liquidity of 680 billion lire (\$397 million). In 1997 Armani had a net financial position of 550

Simint, Armani's clothing manufacturer, is expected to post sales of 199 billion lire in the six months to April 1999, up from 185 billion lire a year earlier. Armani has a 53.25 percent stake

Mr. Brusone also said that Gruppo Finanziario Tessile SpA would not man-

ufacture the autumn-winter collection of 2000 for the Mani Donna line, which will be made by the group's Antinea unit.

LVMH shares closed Wednesday at 211.10 euros (\$186.71), down 8.40. (AFP, Reuters, AFX)

Workers of Thyssen AG's Henschel plant holding banners of the IG Metall union as they marched Wednesday to a rally in Kassel. Meanwhile, data showed more weakness in the German economy. Page 13.

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Cancer Drug Doubt Punishes EntreMed

PRINCETON, New Jersey — Shares of EntreMed Inc. lost almost half their value Wednesday after Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. withdrew its backing for joint development of a drug previously touted for its apparent cancer-fighting qualities.

Angiostatin, a naturally occurring human protein, was thrust into the spotlight last May when it was featured in a front-page article in The New York Times. According to research by Dr. Judah Folkman of Children's Hospital in Boston, the combination of angiostatin and the drug endostatin was able to shrink tumors in mice by cutting off the tumor's blood supply. Neither of the drugs has been tested on people, however.

In a statement issued Tuesday, Bristol-Myers cast doubt oo the drug's future. "At this time, angiostatin protein in its present form does not meet our criteria for molecules that advance to clinical trials," said Robert Kramer, vice president of oncology drug discovery for Bristol-Myers Squibb.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that Mr. Kramer said the company's main concern was not the effectiveness of the compound, but whether it could be manufactured in large enough amounts to sustain tests in people. As recently as November, a Bristol-Myers spokesman said it was hoped that human testing would begin late this year. "It is certainly a setback" for EntreMed, said Ira Loss, an

analyst with HSBC Washington Analysis, who follows the Food and Drug Administration. "Bristol-Myers is one of the leading oncology companies in the world. It is not a vote of confidence in the potential for this product that they would decide to

abandon development before it even got into humans."

In a second development, Bristol-Myers said Wednesday it had halted tests of a hepatitis and herpes drug, lobucavir, after studies in rats revealed a tumor risk. Sales of lobucavir, which was in the last of three stages of testing required to apply for U.S. approval, could have been about \$200 million by 2002, according to some estimates. EntreMed said it would continue to develop the anti-cancer

compound and hoped to begin human trials on its own in 1999. Bristol-Myers said it could resume development and marketing rights for the drug "once proof of clinical principle has been demonstrated." BatreMed shares fell \$11.63 to close Wednesday at \$12.88.

Bristol-Myers shares finished unchanged at \$122.50.



18 ct gold or steel. Corum, 2301 La Chaux-de-Funds, Switzerland, fax, +41 32-9 670 600 Internet: www.corum.ch. e-mail: infr#@corum.cle

Very briefly:

- Ford Motor Co.'s chicf executive, Jacques Nasser, denied that the automaker was discussing any merger or acquisition with Bayerische Motoren Werke AG of Germany.
- Free-PC.com reported more than 300,000 applications for the 10,000 free computers it is giving away in exchange for personal information about the recipients that the company can provide to advertisers.
- Apple Computer Inc. is taking a \$9 million charge in its second quarter related to contracting out the assembly of some of its Macintosh computers, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company has refused to confirm or deny South Korean reports that it will award a \$10 hillion, five-year contract to LG Electronics Corp.
- N W.R. Grace & Co. is cutting 350 jobs, or 8 percent of its salaried work force, in an effort to save \$20 million a year.
- · Citigroup Inc. will issue most of its new credit cards with MasterCard, and two top Citigroup executives, including a co-chairman, John Reed, have quit the Visa International board as the second-largest U.S. issuer of credit cards begins abandoning its decades-old marketing relationship with Visa,
- Sears, Roebuck & Co. will plead guilty to one count of bankruptcy fraudand pay a fine of \$60 million to end a two-year criminal investigation into charges that it was trying to illegally collect debts from customers who had declared bankruptcy.
- 3Com Corp. bought Smartcode Technologie of France for \$17.5 million in cash to add wireless technology to the software that runs 3Com's PalmPilot hand-held computer. Barry Callebaut AG agreed to buy Brazilian cocoa grinder
- Chadler Industrial da Babia SA for an undisclosed price. Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc.'s operating profit rose 140 percent, to \$938 million, as sales rose 6 percent, to \$6.75 billion, led by 20 percent growth in the United States. Net profit before charges rose 12 percent.
- Federal-Mogul Corp. decided not to pursue a rival hid for Lucas Varity PLC, which has agreed to be acquired by TRW other states might get a break if they

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Wednesday, Feb. 10

1486.77 664.73 740.88 124.78 1273.55 612.43

1.21 9.36 7.77 15.64 • 55.54

Nasdaq

Market Sales

x - ex-dividend or ex-rights xxls - ex-distribution.

Per And 0 .15 0 .05 0 .05 0 .05 2 .25

Most Actives

NYSE

Indexes

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U.S. Stock Tables Explained

Trading Activity

Dow Jones

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America Inc. Looks More Efficient

Latest Productivity Gain, 3.7%, Is the Largest in 3-Year Trend

By Louis Uchitelle

annual rate of 3.7 percent, giving the to raise the productivity rate. United States three years of robust improvement in labor efficiency and efficient after years of trying un-

The newest quarterly number, announced Tuesday by the Labor Department, is the biggest increase in productivity — the amount that a worker produces in an hour on the job - since the first quarter of 1996. when productivity rose by 4.2 percent, inaugurating a three-year period of robust improvement.

Some economists say that computers are finally producing their promised efficiencies. But most experts say that a robust economy and strong demand have forced companies to squeeze more production from their workers, often by running

equipment at full capacity.

And chance plays a role. Productivity is really the dollar value of all merchandise and services produced, divided by the number of of productivity, the final score, or worker hours needed to produce it. rate of improvement, cannot be cal-The dollar value is adjusted for inflation, and changes made by the

Labor Department since 1995 to at an average annual rate of 1.4 permake the consumer price index cent since July 1990, the start of the more accurate have automatically NEW YORK - U.S. productiv- increased the dollar value of merity rose in the fourth quarter at an chandise and services, thus helping

Whatever the reasons for the improvement, the latest productivity suggesting that corporate America numbers are a far cry from docmight have become slightly more umenting the arrival of a new era reminiscent of the 1950s and 1960s, when rapid economic expansion, rising wages and low memployment coexisted with low inflation.

All those characteristics also coexist today. But temporary factors apparently explain them, and not the 'structural" changes arising from computer technology.

"It is not clear whether we are experiencing a long-lasting structur-al improvement," said Edwin Dean, chief of productivity data at the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, "or simply an increase in productivity that could disappear

when the economy slows down."
Yogi Berra's baseball aphorism,
in effect, applies to productivity,
said Robert Gordon, a Northwestern University economist. The game isn't over until it's over. In the case culated until a business cycle ends.

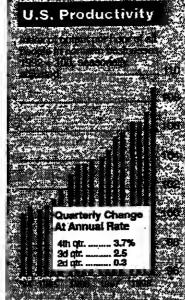
So far, productivity has improved

current business cycle. This compares with an annual increase of 1.1 percent for the entire 1980s cycle.

This not-yet-final improvement of three-tenths of a percentage point from one decade to the next is not to be scoffed at 'It would produce a significant improvement in American lives if it endures for quite a few more years," said Jeffrey Madrick, a journalist and economist who is writing a book on productivity, "but even then it would not be a return to any kind of golden age.'

The productivity number, covering all business except agriculture, is arguably the most important U.S. economic statistic. Only when productivity rises, can incomes and living standards rise. The reason is that productivity measures a worker's success at generating income. A long-distance telephone operator, for example, finds that he or she can handle 100 calls an hour, up from 97 calls, because the phone company has provided better equipment or

The operator's productivity has risen by more than 3 percent. The extra revenue generated in each hour of work can be used to fatten profits or raise wages, or both. Most important, this improvement can



take place without increasing telephone rates. A raise, in effect, is not

dissipated in higher prices. That was commonplace from 1959 to 1973. Productivity for the nonfarm business sector rose at a 2.9 percent annual rate. But then productivity slumped to 1.1 percent from 1973 until 1990. The reasons why have never been fully understood.

Labor productivity for all of 1998 rose by 2.2 percent. Manufacturing led, with a fourth-quarter increase of 5.6 percent and for the year as a whole, a 4.3 percent rise.

Washington may be adding fur-

ther pressure before the policy-mak-

ing meeting Friday of the Bank of

Japan, traders said. Declining yields

would help drive down interest rates

on loans ranging from corporate

unlikely to resort to cutting official

interest rates, already at historic

lows, analysts said. The target

overnight loan rate between banks

was halved to 0.25 percent in

denominated investments, Increas-

weaken the yeu.
The dollar fell to 1.4085 Swiss

But the Japanese central bank is

bonds to mortgages.

Rate Fears Temper Late Rally-

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK - U.S. stocks were mixed amid concern that the prospect of a Federal Reserve Board interest-rate increase will forestall any rebound from this month's de-

IBM and J.P. Morgan led the Dow Jones industrial average higher in late-day surge, offsetting a decline in Philip Morris after it lost a court battle against a smoker with cancer.

The Dow average rose 44.28, 8r 0.5 percent, to 9,177.31, after rising

U.S. STOCKS

50 and falling 34. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index gained 7.41, or 0.6 percent, to 1,223.55. The Nasdaq Composite Index fell 1.28 to 2,309.51, after suffering its worst loss in four months on Tuesday. -"There is choppiness in the mar-

ket because people fear a Fed tightening" later in the year, said Uri Landesman, a money manager with J.P. Morgan Investment Management. Any rise in interest rates "won't be soon, but the odds of easing are out the window."

Short-term traders who study price charts were heartened that the Dow industrials managed to stay above 9,100, which they took aska sign the market would not fall full ther, said Paul Hennessey, head of trading at Boston Partners. Still the rally wasn't convincing

given that declining issues led advancers by a ratio of 19 to 11 on the Big Board, he said.

IBM rose 61/2 to 1681/2 after it signed a seven-year, \$200 million contract to install and manage software for the internal computer network of CompusA, the largest U.S. computer retailer. J.P. Morgill gained 3 5/16 to 103 13/16 after Ronald Mandle, an analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein Co., said bank stocks could rise as much as 20 percent in 1999. BankAmerica rost 1% to 61% and Bank of New York climbed 2 to 341/4.

September. The discount rate, at which it lends money overnight to Philip Morris dropped 3% 10 banks, has been held at 0.5 percent 41%, dragging other tobacco shares with it, after a court awarded \$1:5 Lower Japanese rates weaken the yen by reducing the returns on yenmillion in damages to a California smoker with inoperable cancer, RJR Nabisco Holdings and UST also

> Bonds rose, with the benchmark 30-year Treasury issue gaining

SAO PAULO - Brazil said Wednesday it would help a state pay

global investors The federal government said it had signed a decree opening an un- said Keisuke Aso, manager of forusual credit line of 300 million reals (\$155 million) to guarantee the pay-ment of \$108 million in Eurobonds that Minas Gerais state declared it could not pay.

The move was the government's latest hid to appease world investors who fear that if Brazil's currency crisis worsens, it could hurl the rest of Latin America into recession.

said the measure was needed to prevent a worsening in investors' per-

The government move to cover yields. the state's debts could indicate that AP, Bloomberg, APP, Reuters, NYT pressed hard enough, analysts said.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Grains

CORN (CBOT)
5,000 by minimum-cants, per bushel
Marr 99 220% 215% 220% 4
Mary 99 226% 722 226%
Jul 99 231% 227 231 4
Sep 99 237 233% 226%
Dec 99 24% 24% 24%
Mar 00 252 240% 251%
May 99 256% 252% 255%
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Tuers open int 342,788, up 249

High Low Latest Chie Opint

4994 + 14 9034 - 14 9094 - 14 5104 - 114

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FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50.000 fbs.- cents per ib.

HOGS-Less (CMER)
49,000 ibs.- cents per ib.
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Apr 99 42,56 42,15 42,45
Jun 99 56,65 52,75 56,67
Aug 99 57,15 56,25 56,77
Est soles 9, 104 Tears soles 8,008
Turs open ist 45,617, cff 280

PORK BELLIES (CMER) 91.00 55.20 91.00 55.20 91.25 55.70 57.32 57.20

HORLD 11 (HCSE) ba. cents per R. 6.94 6.83 6 6.81 6.71 6 6.78 6.62 4 7.02 6.93 7

Brazil Grants Yen Falls on Talk of U.S. Pressure

gainst the yen Wednesday on speculation that the United States will pressure Japan to curb rising bond yields, a move that could bolster Japanese growth but weaken the yen.
"The pressure from overseas will

be a matter for Japan to consider,' eign exchange at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. "It could lead to a compromise that would bring rates down. The problem for Japan's economy is the rapidity of the move in long-term bond yields."

The dollar was quoted in late trading at 114.450 yen, up from 114.125 yen on Tuesday.

In other trading, the euro rose

against the dollar and the yen as traders said they saw it as an attractive alternative amid falling U.S. stocks and declining Japanese

expand its money supply, arguing buy government bonds either in the such growth would limit the rise in secondary market or at issuance to the yield of Japanese long-term bonds. Lower interest rates could then offset spending programs. The advice echoes recent calls from the U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Ru-

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

bin, for Japan to use "all possible policy tools" to revive growth.

"Japan's economic situation is serious, and addressing it requires the government of Japan to use all the macroeconomic tools at its disposal," said a Treasury spokeswoman at the U.S. Embassy in

"The U.S. Treasury has not pro-posed that the Bank of Japan unsince September 1995: derwrite Japanese government bond ing the money supply also would

Because the tripling in benchmark bond yields since October The euro rose to \$1.1335 from could plunge the nation deeper into recession, Japanese legislators have francs from 1.4178 francs, while the 31/32 to 98 7/32, pushing the yield Washington is urging Tokyo to suggested that the Bank of Japan pound fell to \$1.6270 from \$1.6375: #5.537 percent from 5.30 percent.

AIRLINE: Judge's Order

Continued from Page 11

American says that immediately promoting the Reno pilots would cost it \$40 million to \$50 million. Instead, it is pledging to raise their status and pay gradually over 12 to 18 months:

Although the purchase of Reno is the source of this disput;
ill will between the pilots and the company has been festering for years. In the early 1990s, in an attempt to stem losses, American Airlines closed three hubs and furloughed 610 pilots, while at the same time leasing its empty airport gates to Reno Air and Midway Airlines Inc. and selling frequent-flier miles on the smaller carriers. American pilots say the proper as miles on the smaller carriers. American pilots saw the move as a way to shift work to their lower-paid counterparts at the smaller airlines.

"I think that this is a confrontation that has its roots in things that have happened in the past," said Holly Hogeman, an airline analyst for Plane Business.

She added that she believed Don Carty, AMR's chairman and chief executive, seriously underestimated the lingering anger among pilots.

Mr. Carty said the "dysfunctional" relationship between

management and pilots is not one that he is proud of. "I don't know the answer," he said, adding, "We're going to keep plugging at it."

Wall Street analysts estimate that the slowdown costs American \$1.2 million for every 100 flights canceled. AMR stock closed Wednesday at \$56, down 50 cents(Reuters, AE)

■ EU and U.S. Clash Over Aircraft Noise Proposals : The European Parliament on Wednesday backed a European Union proposal for new standards aimed at reducing aircraft noise and pollution caused by fuel emissions, The Associated Press reported from Strasbourg, France. The proposal has angered the United States, which claims the proposed new rules on plane engines would discriminate against U.S. companies and ignore existing international rules on aircraft noise pollntion levels. INTEREST RATES 10-year/4 4283-#4 4283-#4 4287-79-7 3.792-#5 3.992-#5 2.11 -6-7 30-year 5-36-9-9-7 7-7-7 2-mon 5.08 2.87 3.03 2.60 0.27 2.95 British France Gentram Italy Japan Spain United Si Yield Price 3-ments 4,49 4,39 16 year 4.93 98-19 Money Market Rates United States Discount rate Prime rule Federal funds 96-day Carts De 186-day Com. Pr Today 41/: 7-4 4/4 4.90 4.79 Japan Discour 1- 2- 6- 12-month menth menth menth 4.9356 5.00 5.0303 5.15384 3.152 2.1059 3.0404 3.0325; 5.6116 5.51 5.3319 5.29969 0.3695 0.4488 0.45 0.4642-1.1767 1.235 1.315 1.46 ~ Doller Euro Storling Yen Sw Franc 3.00 N.A. 3.15 3.11 3.05 3.04 Forward Rates Gold Fixings 40-day 1,4282 1,4923

287.10 288.20

Credit to State

NEW YORK - The dollar rose

off its foreign debt to try to limit the damage to its credibility among

Finance Minister Pedro Malan

ception of Brazilian risk.

HI GRADE CUPPER (NCMX)
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Aur 99 64.75 64.66 64.65
Aur 99 64.75 64.66 64.65
Aur 99 67.70 47.35 67.85
Aur 99 67.70 47.35 67.85
Aur 99 67.70 67.30 67.80
Aur 99 68.30 67.30 67.80
Aur 99 68.30 67.30 68.20
Cet 99 69.10 68.50 68.95

556.5 546.0

10 YR TREASURY (CBOT) \$100,000 pels-ubs. 22nds of 100 pel Mor 97 117-22 117-04 117-08 - 03 404,642 Jun 99 117-21 117-07 117-11 tesch. 22,224 Sep 97 117-04 116-27 116-27 usch. 476 Est seles 111,007 Turs solas 95,460 Tur's open Int \$21,461, up 4,599

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Mar 99 119.09 118.02 118.03 -0.17 96.126
Jun 99 119.88 119.22 119.41 -0.09 1,966
Est, solics: 45,161. Prex. solics: 39,392
Prev. open int.: 98,101 up 1,844

9.69 9.50 9.50 9.50 9.60 9.60 9.60 9.60 678 31,229 2,218 8,072 1,457 6,479 1,384 3,923 986

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES High Low Latest Chge Opint

High Low Latest Chas Open Sep 99 96.500 98.470 98.490 +0.030 34.514

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) | September | Sept

NATURAL CAS (NIMER)
19,000 mm bitos. 5 per mm biu.
Mar 99 1,856 1,765 1,770 -0.048
Apr 99 1,892 1,800 1,815 -0.055
May 99 1,992 1,340 1,890 -0.043
Jun 99 1,920 1,870 1,875 -0.043
Jun 99 1,943 1,900 1,970 -0.030
Aug 99 1,943 1,900 1,970 -0.030
Aug 99 1,943 1,900 1,970 -0.030
Ed. spies NA. Toers orises 38,485
Turn opes int 262,100. up 2,426

ONLEADED GASOLINE (NAMER)
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Apr 99 30-00 30-55 37-16 40
Apr 99 39-55 39-40 39-61 40
Jul 99 39-55 39-40 39-61 40
Jul 99 40-75 40-85 40-82 40
Sep 99 40-75 40-86 40
Sep 99 40-75 40
Sep 99 40
Sep 90 40
Sep

MEDICAN PESO (CMERO)
500,000 pesos, \$ per peso;
Marry 9 19799 00400 107780 + 00713 10,908
Jun 97 19720 09480 107245 - 00718 5,463
Sep 99 10675 00460 10726 - 00713 diel
Ent. solve 2545 Tupes solve 1,515
Ture open int 17,48%, up 311

BRITISH POUND (CAMER) 82,500 pounds, 5 per pound Marry 1,632 1,638 1,638 Jun 99 1,6340 1,6244 1,6276 Sep 99

GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 morks, 5 per mork Marry 5919 5773 59 Jun 99 5949 5970 58 Sep 99

LAPANESE YEN (CMEE)

12.5 million yen, \$ per 100 yen

12.5 million yen, \$ per 100 yen

12.7 million yen

12.7 m

CAC 46 (MATTF)
earn 10 per index point
Feb 99 4025.0 3967.0 4007.0
Mar 99 4025.5 3961.0 4014.5
Apr 99 4022.0 4013.0 4014.0
Sep 99 N.T. N.T. 3997.5
Est. soles: 72,427
Open int.: 202,322 off 582

Close 1.178.90 1,441.10 76.339 188.37 Provious 1,182.70 1,447.40 76.49 188.95 Arts and Antiques

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A Field of Dreams in Caspian Sea

Reservoir May, or May Not, Prove to Be a Major Source of Oil

By Steve LeVine New York Times Service

ALMATY, Kazakhstan - A single field has captivated the industry. Situated 40 miles (64 kilometers) offshore in the Caspian Sea, it is called Kashagan This spring, a foreign consortium plans to drill the first test well. But already, insiders with access to a private, \$300 million seismic survey, are suggesting that Kashagan is among the world's largest pools of oil

Moch is at stake. If Kashagan proves to be big, the Caspian would be confirmed as one of the world's great oil regions. In addition, the sea would justify a \$4 billion pipeline that the White House - seeking to support the independence of Central Asian republics from Russia and Iran — has urged oil companies to build to the Mediterranean Sea.

"Still, there is reason to be wary. "Kashagan is an enormous struc-ture but it could be empty," said Chris Innes, a manager of the ninecompany consortium exploring the field. "If it is empty, then talk of pipelines becomes fairy tales."
When the Soviet Union collapsed

in 1991, the Caspian became the greatest hope in global oil. On the

oilmen went to work on existing fields. Here in Kazakhstan, Chevron Corp. and Mobil Corp. became partners in the region's biggest proven oil field — Tengiz, with a minimum of 6 billion barrels of recoverable

Yet the big new finds expected with the introduction of Western technology have been elusive. And, as world oil prices have plunged to their lowest levels in 25 years, a crisis of confidence has descended

on much of the region. Against this background, Kashagan has cheered oilmen, geologists and local leaders. The rea-

about the same age, 300 million years old. And Kashagan is nearly three times the size of Tengiz, one of the world's 10 largest oil fields.

All along, though, geologists have warned that the details can all appear favorable but amount to oothing once drilling is completed. Yet interest has remained intense.

One sign came in September miles (3.68 kilometers). when, amid the industry slump, A second test well

western side, in Azerbaijan, foreign Phillips Petroleum Co. and Inpex of Japan paid \$500 million for a combined one-seventh interest in the Kashagan consortium. The other consortium members are Agip SpA of Italy, BG POC of Britain, British Petroleum Co. Ltd., Mobil Corp. of the United States, Royal Dutch/Shell Group, Statoil Norge A/S of Norway and Total SA of

"As Kazakhstan's biggest potential offshore project, a successful well at Kashagan, with flow rates even close to what have been anticipated, will mean as much for the future development of this country and region as the 1968 discovery of son is geology.

A reservoir covered by a massively thick salt dome, Kashagan is situated in the same geological basin as Tengiz and is about the same age 200 million.

The consortium plans to drill its first well when the ice in the northern Caspian begins to break up, some time in April or Msy.

It has selected a spot near Kashagan's eastern edge where, according to the seismic study, an oil strike looks most likely. To get to it, workers must drill down roughly 2.3

A second test well



Kashagan's western edge, deemed the second most likely to be pro-ductive — will follow. "Then we'll know if it's a commercial find," said Nicholas Wood, a consortium

Especially anxious to know the outcome is the Clinton administration, whose stalled Caspian initiative seeks in establish a new politiical balance in a region long dominated by Moscow, one where the United States has had little influ-

The centerpiece of the initiative is the proposed 1,087-mile (1,739-kilometer) pipeline from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, in a Turkish port, Ceyhan, on the Mediterranean. The system would also serve Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, which would be linked to Baku through underses pipelines.

oess lobby said the government's Mr. Schroeder told the newspaper 'chaotie' approach to tax reform Sneddentsche Zeitung that his govplus narrowed in December amid a was burting investment and eco-ernment would think again about scrapping certain tax breaks on which businesses with large inven-

Mr. Stihl also accused the IG Metall union of wrecking efforts to fight unemployment with token strikes in support of its 6.5 percent

pay claim. Mr. Schroeder, a Social Democrat who has made job creation his top priority, held a first round of talks in December to seek a consensus between employers and unions on how to cut Germany's 11.5 percent jobless rate.

Sales Push **Cuts Profit** At BSkyB

LONDON - British Sky Broad-

casting Group PLC, Britain's largest pay-television company, said Wednesday that profit fell in its first half and cited the costs of luring customers to its new digital service. But sales for the digital service in

the latest quarter beat forecasts, helping to drive up BSkyB's share price. BSkyB said its pretax profit fell by more than half, to £53.2 million (\$87.1 million) in the half-year that

ended Dec. 31 from £128.6 million a year earlier because of heavy digital TV start-up costs. BSkyB's sales rose percent in the second quarter in £401.3 million, while operating costs rose 28 percent to £364.7 million.

Programming expenses rose 12 percent in £366.7 million as BSkyB purchased new content in all major genres and generally strengthened its schedules for digital.

Marketing costs rose 30 percent in the period, to £110.7 million, and subscriber-management expenses rose 53 percent, to £72.7 million.

The profit drop, widely expected by analysts, was overshadowed by the rise in Sky Digital customers. The company said it signed up 350,000 digital subscribers between Oct. 1 and Jan. 31, of wborn 120,000 were new to satellite television. BSkyB's shares closed up 15 per-

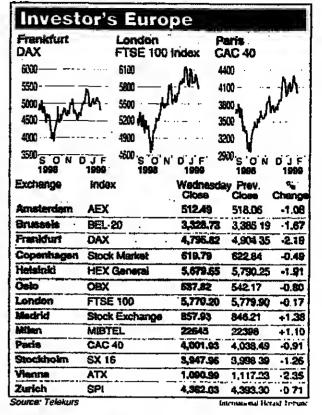
cent, rising 62 pence to 474 pence. (Bloomberg, Reuters) ■ No Deal With Canal Plus

The chairman of News Corp. Europe said Wednesday that reports

pean pay-TV market between them and National Power PLC, Britain's largest electricity gencould not be true, Reuters reported from Rome. Letizia Morarti said after address-

ing a parliamentary bearing on antitrust law that what she had beard of the purported deal "would be in clear violation of European antitrust laws," Newspapers reported Wednesday

that News Corp. had held secret talks with the French group, whose Telepio unit is the No. 1 pay-TV



Very briefly:

 The European Parliament voted to significantly strengthen legislation on on-line piracy and gave its full backing to artists concerned by the spread of digital media such as the Internet. The measures, which include tougher rules on copies made for personal use, teaching and research, now go to national governments for enactment into law.

 Credit Agricole is interested in buying the state-owned bank Credit Lyonnais, which is to be privatized in the first half of this year, said its managing director, Lucien Douroux.

 Eesti Telekom, the national phone company of Estonia, sold a 49 percent stake to the public, raising 3.06 billion kroon (\$220 million) in the biggest public offering in the Baltic states. Metro AG, Europe's biggest retail company, posted a 4.8

percent increase in adjusted sales in 1998, to 91.7 billion Deutsche marks (\$53.1 billion), but its stock price (ell as the of a secret deal with French rival results were below some analysts' expectations. Canal Plus SA to carve up the Euro- United Utilities PLC, a British water and electricity utility,

> erator, decided against a merger after holding talks to consider the possibility. · Olympic Airways' managing director, Theodore Tsakiridis, resigned to make way for new management, which the

government hopes will improve the unprofitable state-owned company's performance, Athens News reported, citing the Athens News Agency. Remy Coiotreau SA, the world's sixth-biggest liquor and

wine company, said sales rose 0.9 percent to 5.98 billion francs (\$1.03 billion) in the first nine months as demand for wines and liqueurs offset a decline in cognac sales.

Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters

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Sensible Collect Taxes, German Trade Figures Show Weakness he Europeans and : Russia Is Told ed States are ready to: tornic support and prop tary presence, if the !-

-MOSCOW - Deputy Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said Wednesday that the International Mooetary Fund wanted Russia to donble its tax collection immediately, a demand that Moscow was said to find unrealistic. .Mr. Kasyanov, after meeting the

Italian foreign trade minister, Piero Fassino, also said Russia was expected to reschedule its debts and carry out a wide range of reforms. The IMF considers that the revegues of the federal budget should percent to 18 percent of GDP." Mr. Kasyanov said.

'That is, Russia must take mea-Vhat then will better 💝 sures so that from tomorrow morning we would collect two times more in taxes."

Wednesday, Feb. 10

In euros for EMU countries.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

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BONN - Germany's trade surdrop-off in exports, signaling continnedweakness in the economy and possible negative growth in the fourth quarter, economists said. Trade numbers released Wednes-

day come on the beels of weak industrial data earlier this week that deepened uncertainty about when the economy would bounce back from its autumn slump, Germany's trade surplus slipped

to 5.6 billion Deutsche marks (\$3.23 billion) in December, compared to 15.3 billion DM in November, far below most forecasts. Figures released Monday showed

industrial output was flat in December from a 2.1 percent fall in the The head of a key German busi- only in stages.

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nomic growth prospects. He said that if Bonn did not improve its policies, it would fall short tories, like bookshops or clothing of its forecast of 2 percent economic growth in 1999.

Hans-Peter Stihl, president of the German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, also said an escalating pay dispute in the metal and engineering sector could derail a roundtable on jobs called by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

came as the cabinet reviewed amended legislation to cut taxes by a net 15 billion DM through 2002. The tax reform envisages cutting

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corporation tax to 35 percent from a main rate of 45 percent now, but

Mr. Stihl's remarks Wednesday

A second round is scheduled for Feb. 25, but Mr. Stihl said he could not see the talks going ahead in the current climate of industrial unrest. provider in Italy. 7.65 12.85 12.55 1

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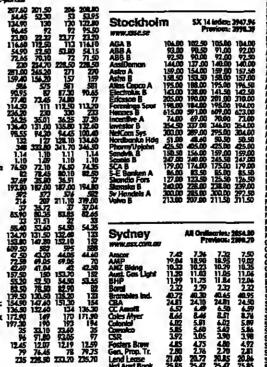
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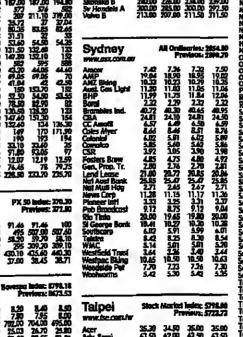
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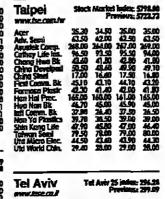
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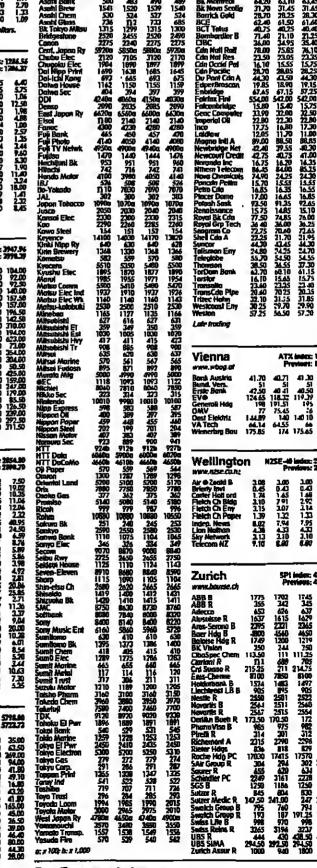












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NASDAO Wednesday's 4 P.M. 17 March 1998 Live Stock DIN YM PE ME HOL LINE LANG CHAP Dir Yiel PE 1805 Kingh Law Labort The 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year. 与行政的,是以后的法院的关系的。 对在,是我们有关。因为有法的,是一个女子,这种所有,是我也是有的。我们可以是什么的,是一个人,也可以是什么的,我们就可以是一个 ,这有条件是是一种的有关中心,我们也就是现在的主义的。 "你就是我们的一种的是是大家,只要的这些话也。我们还是从我们的人 -Ultras garage - Derrick Derrick bester hier garages Dir Yel PE HEE High Law Latest 而是我也是我是我是否以前是全角电话还是我们的表示是我一个的一个 STEER ingradus sangader sangader sangater sangater sangater sangater sangater sangater sangater sangater sangater sa 7 L aftabbeteth tobetatethe statethe statethe statethe serification franklike statethe statethe series statethe series ERALLA HARRAMANAN LÄSSÄÄTTÄÄNÄS LASSILLÄSILLÄSSÄ erisikho eriiskaja propisionis ERREGE LEE **AMEX** Sohe High Low Lutest Orga Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close Improf.
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MANILA — Asian economies

al economy, we have to revitalize the financial sector first," Tadao

Mr. Chino, newly elected pres-

Chino said.

the priority list."

would rein in growth.

Very briefly:

 The United States and Japan will discuss a pending status report on Japanese trade deregulation at a meeting of their trade representatives in Tokyo in the first week of March, a U.S. trade official said, warning that Japan still had a "significant" amount of work to do to advance deregulation.

• Japanese publie-works starts fell 16.7 percent in December from a year earlier, with contractors beginning 1.8 trillion year (\$15.7 billion) of projects as government spending to stim-ulate the economy slowed ahead of new funding in April, the Construction Ministry said.

• Toyota Motor Corp. said it planned to establish financial subsidiaries this year in Brazil, Poland and Sweden and was considering one in the Czecb Republic as part of an effort to increase global sales 20 percent early in the next decade.

• Nissan Motor Co. will sell a 20 percent stake in Ikeda Bussan Co., a maker of car seats and interiors, to NHK Spring Co. for 2 billion yen, the three companies said, a premium of about 28 percent based on Ikeda's closing share price of 86 yen Wednesday.

Renong Bhd., which has debt of about 20 billion ringgit : (\$5.3 billion), or 5 percent of Malaysian bank loans, postpooed a meeting with creditors, saying it needed government approval on parts of a debt-restructuring plan.

 Sistem Televisyen Malaysia Bhd., or TV3, is seeking to reschedule loans and sell assets to reduce its debt of 521.7 "million ringgit and keep operating.

Kia Union Warns on Job Cuts

SEOUL - Kia Motors Corp. workers shut down the company's operations for five hours oo Wednesday, demanding that Hyundai Motor Co., which took over the bankrupt Kia late last vear shelve plans to cut the labor force in half.

The work stoppage may signal a revival of union militancy as South Korea's economy begins to show signs of recovering from its deepest recession in almost 50 years. Labor opposition could hinder efforts by the nation's overgrown industrial groups to downsize and

reduce their crippling debt.
Workers may think they have found leeway, but this is a very dangerous sign for the economy," said Hwang Sung Tack, a portfolio manager at IMM Asset Management

The five-hour shutdown of Kia's three factories, which employ 13,300 people and can make 2,500 cars, small trucks and recreational vehicles a day, cost 5.6 billion won (\$4.8 millioa) in lost production, said Kim Sam Sung, a Kia spokes-

"This is a warning shot," a union spokesman said. "We will seek cooperation from Hyundai Motor workers and widen the strike unless the management accepts our demands.

Separately, Hyundai Motor Co., said had it suffered a record loss in 1998 as the nation's severest recessioo in oearly half a decade undermined domestic demand.

The company suffered a net loss of 33 billion won for the full year, its largest loss since it was founded in 1967. Earnings will be officially

announced around Feb. 26.

New Head at ADB Says Banks Must Reform have hit bottom, but a strong re-

covery requires financial reforms, the new head of the Asian Devel-He listed China as among those opment Bank said Wednesday. facing challenges in financial re-"In order to revitalize the region-

Some foreign economists have estimated bad debts at Chinese banks at \$200 billion, about 20 percent of the country's gross domestic \$5.9 product. But Mr. Chino said there said. "The outlook for 1999 depends on current reform initiatives and the mood of the capital markets," hc was no pressure for China to devalue its currency because of hefty said. "Restructuring and recapitalforeign reserves, which he said rose in 1998 to \$145 billion. ization of banks should be high on

He said the ADB would earmark ident of the regional bank based in part of its 1999 loan portfolio for Manila, said lower capital inflows

Such aid would take many forms, "Sharp reductions in private cap-including technical assistance, ital to Asia will keep the overall policy dialogue and special-pro-

financial restructuring in Asia.

very effective capital markets, and financing for the region in the fund transparent and well-supervised banking systems." Mr. Chino said.

The ADB, which is owned by governments in the region, estimates its total lending in 1999 at \$6.5 billion to \$7.5 billion, op from \$5.98 billion in 1998, bank officials

Mr. Chino said that beneficiaries would include Indonesia and that the bank would arrange substantial

aid to the country "very soon." He also said the ADB would to help member countries have ac-

supply of foreign exchange to the region well below the pre-crisis level," he said. "That's the problem" gram loans, he said. "We have to the Miyazawa Fund, set up in response to the Asian currency crisis. Take assistance for the purpose of level," he said. "That's the problem" named after its finance minister,

Kiichi Miyazawa. Mr. Chino gave the Philippines good marks for its efforts to ride out regional financial turmoil.
The Philippines

Showed stronger-than-expected resilience in the face of the regionwide crisis, thanks to strong monetary management by the central bank and the banking sector," he said.

Depending on external events, its economy as measured gross domesguarantee up to \$3 billion in bonds tic product should grow I percent to 2 percent in 1999 and 5 percent in cess to international financial mar- 2000, he said. The Philippine econ-Omy contracted 0.5 percent in (AFP Rouse)

Singapore Banks Face Doubling of Bad Loans

SINGAPORE --- Bad loans at Singapore's banks could more than double this year to 15 percent of total lending after a deterioration in

their financial performance in 1998, Standard & Poor's Corp. warned on Wednesday.

The global credit ratings agency added, however, that the five banking groups in the city-state hit by recession were sturdy enough to

weather the Asian financial storm. Singapore's banks have already seen profits plunge because of a rapid regional economic slowdown and their exposure to countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia, which have been hit hard by financial tur-

moil since mid-1997. 'As a consequence of Singapore's own economic slowdown and recessionary conditions in the Asian region, Standard & Poor's expects that the Singapore banking system's expand trading in the stock market, gross problematic assets will peak at and better supervise brokerages, in-10 to 15 percent of total assets in a vestment houses and financial inworst-case scenario," Standard & stitutions.

The gross problematic assets intured loans and foreclosed assets.

As of September 1998, about 6.6 it would slash by more than 40 perpercent of loans given out by Singacent the size of an equity-linked mand, analysts said.

ment investment arm Temasek derwritten by Goldman, Sachs & Asia at Goldman Sachs, which ar-Holdings Pte. said Wednesday that Co., but the size had been cut to ranged the sale. (AFP, Bloomberg)

pore banks were classified as non- bond issue under which it was to sell

"Investors were not prepared to performing, according to the latest official figures.

part of its stake in a leading bank. It had expected to issue \$1.3 bil
put this much money into Asia at one time. said Richard Gnodde, Separately, Singapore's govern- lion worth of convertible bonds un- co-bead of investment banking in

Taipei Proposals Aim to Bolster Markets

Agence France-Presse

TAIPEI - The Finance Ministry proposed a package of medium and long-term measures Wednesday to strengthen Taiwan's capital markets

and bolster the flagging economy. The proposals inclode laws to management of listed companies,

"This medium-long-term plan is to build a lasting and efficient cap-

Finance Ministry said.

Under the proposals, foreign institutions would be permitted to increase their stock market investments, bolding companies would be allowed to list on the exchange or on protect investors, strengthen the the over-the-counter market, laws would be enacted to encourage mergers and acquisitions of listed companies, and private enterprises involved in major public construction projects would be allowed to raise money in

the financial markets. The proposals followed three clude nooperforming loans, restruc- ital market mechanism to ensure short-term measures the ministry

future and to protect investors," the ing stock market and bolster investor confidence.

Those measures eased restrictions on margin fund providers buying into stocks, required listed companies to improve disclosure of informatioo and promised an investigation into stock market specu-

The series of efforts come after Taiwan's economie growth last year slipped to 4.83 percent, the lowest in 15 years. Officials have forecast that growth in 1999 will be an even slower 4.74 percent as the country cootinues to suffer from the finan-

stable economic development in the adopted Monday to bail out the ail- cial crisis in Asia. February 10, 1999 Advertisement INTERNATIONAL FUNDS For information please contact To receive free daily quotetions for your funds subscribe at: e-funds@iht.com Kety Houri: Fax (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or e-mail: MHT/FUN/ Classiffy Convein (Blad) of businessy (Class) of businessy (Blad) W IDF Good Front in DEVELOP Front Comment of the Co 2184.67 702.39 967.18 nce Ptfl S.A. GAT PIRAMETA GROUP GEA & 2 264 - 6081 GRIEGHER - AMELT MIRRORIFICATION OF THE STATE OF THE MARKAGEMENT I LOCKERS OF THE STATE OF THE MARKAGEMENT I LOCKERS OF THE STATE OF THE B CAAM Sur Universal EUR Inc. d CAAM Sur Universal EUR Inc. d CAAM Sur Universal Eur. d CAAM Sur Universal Eur. d CAAM Sur Universal CGP Inc. d CAAM Sur Universal CGP Inc. d CAAM Sur Universal USD Acc. d CAAM Sur Universal USD Acc. d CAAM Sur Universal USD Acc. d CAAM Sur Universal USD Inc. d CAAM Country Flow Flow d CAAM Country Flow d CAAM Country Flow d CAAM Sur Universal Country d CAAM Sur Universal Sind Section Part Color Street Color Part Color Street Co C.C.F.E. Lufus Fand V. Coroyard Asia V. Coroyard Eleopa Pouch Store 620 CREDIT AREICOLE INDOSUEZ LUX m. Decoffision Fund Luf d. Evry-Speckal Egil Hit Gosuez Lux m. Decoffision Fund Luf d. Evry-Speckal Egil Hit Gosuez Lux d. Evry-Speckal Egil Hit Gosuez Lux d. Evry-Speckal Egil Hit Gosuez Lux d. Francold Opportunition Egil Gosuez d. Allocation Fund Fund Gosuez Lux d. Allocation Fund Fund Gosuez Lux m. Monthing Fulf Fulf Ser 1 Cl C m. Monthing Fulf Fulf Ser 1 Cl C m. Indoover Corr. Cl A Units w. Monthing Fulf Fulf Ser 1 Cl C m. Indoover Light Yu Gosuez m. Indoover Light Wind Bud m. Indoover Light Wind Bud m. Indoover Light Wind Fulf m. Indoover Asian Pint-Pulb R g. S. m. USD Modition: "A loca" of USD Medicine Term 18 loca" of USD Long Terms-C (soc) of USD Long Terms-C (soc) of Lo d GSF EMMAR # Monaged d GSF Estempann d GSF Harmy Kong d GSF Estempann d GSF Harmy Kong d GSF Everpann Bond d IAF Prilto Bond d IAF Both Bond d IAF Infl Bothacod Growth Bold w Come A Copy Growth Bold w Come A Copy Growth Bold w Come C Globod Bond d IAF Infl Bothacod Growth d IAF Infl IAF Infl IAF Infl w III Globod Liet (Jam.31 End) d III Globod Liet (Jam.31 End) d III Globod Liet (Jam.31 End) d IAF Infl IAF Infl IAF Infl d IAF Infl IAF Infl d IAF Infl IAF Infl d IAF Inf 110.321 9,46 8,41 134.024 1,72.100 104.241 152.244 178.693 84.71 132.34 4.79 40.02 7,68 10.25 10.17 10.21 10.20 10.10 10.14 10.10 10.13 10.00 10.03 851,95 844,05 844,05 1244,71 201,82 1244,71 195,65 195,65 125,71 127,18 127,18 127,18 137,18 d Goldmann im Ford Us 27 SORDON ROUSE ASSET MROT 28 SORDON ROUSE ASSET MROT 28 SORDON ROUSE ASSET MROT 30 SORDON ROUSE 4 G. SAND FORD 5 SORD FORD 5 SORD FORD 5 SORD FORD 5 SORD FORD 6 STPORTON 5 SORD FORD 6 STPORTON 6 STPORTON 7 SORDON 7 SOR 1.00 1.00 1.00 10.10 1167.24 OF 1970.45 OF 1970.45 OF 1970.45 OF 2074.45 OF 2074.45 OF 1970.45 I 1970.45 10 order PAN RECOGNIZES Assiration Jepon Fernd Hornit America Colopen Fund When Hornit America Colopen Fund When Bond When Bond When Bond When Bond When Bond Goods Good 34.90 15.24 76.16 20.02 46.36 22.04 37.44 102.99 8.45 7.82 20.37 4.43 GO STATE AND COME TO SERVICE AND ADDRESS OF S an August Prints BERACON GLOSAL ADVISORS LY Company Series S. Lid Company Series Series Series Colleged F. Company Colleged F. Colleged 1298.4 1777.73 274.19 224.91 377.01 259.44 220.45 94.77 0111.00 MAYERICK (CAVMAN) (MS) THE THEORY OF THE STATE OF THE JODOT 4 ALLIANCE CAPITAL MANAGE 5 BORN 60 BORNWIST (153-40440) ARRICOS US G. S Styles 8 ARRICOS US G. Styles 1 ACM ARRICOS US G. STYLES 9.4702 9.7013 LTD 25.42 1.51 4.67 \$ 2,490 \$ 2,28 \$ 1,160 7 285,30 NT LTD \$ 98,05 \$ 187,29 Mosasticher Cem AG \$ 153 Hosseticher Div \$ 3 153 AFFT 2015 HOSSET HORIZON FOR THE STATE HORIZON FOR THE HORIZON FOR THE STATE HORIZON FOR THE STATE HORIZON FOR THE THE HORIZON FOR THE THE THE HORIZON FOR THE HORIZON FOR THE HORIZON FOR THE HORIZON FOR THE THE HORIZON FOR THE THE HORIZON FOR THE HORIZON FOR THE HORIZON FOR THE THE HORIZON FOR THE HORIZON FO 1.00 72.99 34.17 27.38 77.85 14.90 27.52 4.94 4.97 11.34 11.74 2445 4422 \$ 10.44 \$ 435 \$ 20.71.20 \$ 10.10 \$ 0.23 W LG India Fund Lid # Sherina Hyestinear Co Pic. 3 #81 LLOYDS BANK NOT. CBANKAMSS L Lloyds Americas Puriodia # LLOYDS TAS R MINESTS COL LTD TAM 1534 BOST 74 A 1534 BACKS # Evopean Ecolly # International Equity # Second Ecolly # High International Color # UK Ecolly # UK Ecolly # UK Ecolly # UK Ecolly # Off Fund # International Bond # Swetter Doposity # LO School Second Cops Cop # LO Colleged Such Copo Dis # LO Solves S.A. M Cops LO Solves S.A. M Cops LO Solves S.A. M Cops # Colleged Conservative # Grade Conservati 16.27 . SICAV 5 7.46 11.77 11.77 267.48 97.98 265.91 455

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stronger than expected testing the face of the remarking thanks to strong transfer. thanks to should transfar me banking sector. he said

They bet that eventually Romania's highly educated work Depending on external cons force, comprehensive if outdated in-CAMOUNT IN THE BRIDE STREET dustrial base and ample farmland tic preduct should grow | proand raw materials — including a recent offshore oil find — will turn period in long and 5 per the country of 23 million into a country lie and the country of 23 million into a 2000, he said the Chilippine ony contacted at 5 stable and lucrative market.

Al Tolstoy, president of Mohi-Fon, a Canadian-owned mobile telephone operator, last month decided to invest a further \$155 million in

By Peter S. Green

International Herald Tribun

shrinking economy.

few nervous days last month preparing to evacuate key staff if the miners marched on Bucharest and pillaged the city center, as they did four times in the early 1990s.

"Romania has a pretty big un-reground economy," Mr. Tolstoy .derground economy, said. "We figure the GDP here at Rabobank in London." could be as much as half under-

tential sales for MobiFon's Connex the Dacia car works, whose cheap network

BUCHAREST — Romania may Despite official average salaries be realing from a violent weeklong of about \$149 a month, Connex has AG and Fiat SpA. · miner's strike and teetering on the signed up 330,000 Romanians , brink of default, but despite the bad news, some investors have been put- from \$50 to \$60 a month.

ting money into the country's "Growth is 210 percent year on year in mobile phones," Mr. Tolstoy said, "and we've only got 2.8 percent penetration."

> Mr. Tolstoy is not alone in his enthusiasm. On the day that 10,000 coal miners threatened to march on Bucharest unless their pay was raised and unprofitable mines were reopened, a British company called Allied Deals bought a copper mine

and smelter for \$37 million. Three days later, the Turkisb oil company Akmaya paid about \$740 Romania, expanding networks and million for Petromidia, one of Romania's largest refineries, re-He did so even after spending a portedly to process Caspian Sea

> "Investors can find some real bargains if they are willing to wade through the uncertainty and have patience and have reliable people on the ground" as managers, said Roger Monson, chief equity strategist

The French automaker Renault

French compete with Volkswagen

And Scania AB, the Swedish on foreign loans this year, whose mobile phone bills average maker of bases and trucks, is in talks to buy the truckmaker Roman and the tractor company Tractorul.

Valentin George, a U.S.-trained investment banker at Bancorex, a soon-to-be privatized Romanian bank, said the opportunities for direct investors in Romania now were widespread.

"There's a fire sale in privat-ization," Mr. George said. "This is the time to buy in Bucharest. Prices are low, and the government is willing to sell." Romania's consumer market has

attracted others besides Connex. Last week, the U.S.-based Atomic Media Group inaugurated a \$5 million-plus Romanian music-televi-sion channel that now reaches 750,000 bornes, and Coca-Cola Beverages PLC spent £15 million (\$24.6 million) on two bottling plants purchased from a local com-

Despite the confidence these investors have shown, reforms are far behind schedule

proved an austerity program that it money to help cushion the blow for skilled workers could help the hopes will bring new credits this workers who lose jobs. month from the International Monetary Fund to meet \$2.8 billion due Mr. Monson said of government

> "The risk of a serious financial crisis in Romania this year is high,"

analysts at Credit Suisse First Boston wrote in a recent report. The Romanian currency, the leu, has fallen 12 percent against the more.

U.S. dollar since Jan. 1. The economy, which contracted 5.5 percent last year after a 6.6 percent decline in 1997, is expected to sake the black market for "a real shrink 2 percent more this year. Industrial production fell about 20

percent last year. seen as possible this year, and fore- enough. casters say that unemployment will

hit 12 percent. Some key companies have been privatized. Societe Generale SA of France recently acquired the Romanian Development Bank, and Hellenic Telecommunications Organization, the Greek telephone company known as OTE, bought control of RomTelecom.

on a list of 149 unprofitable state- munity can provide additional owned enterprises that the IMF says money.

Investors Look Beyond Romania's Economic Troubles stated." That translates into vast po- SA is in talks about the purchase of Last weekend, the Parliament ap- must be closed, and there is little

> "They have done some things." economic steps, "but investors have meanwhile raised their standards of acceptance after giving the benefit of the doubt to Russia and getting badly burned. Basically, good enough isn't good enough any

Prime Minister Radu Vasile says he knows that Romania, he told Parliament last weekend, must for-

market economy."

wealth amassed overnight, fiscal evasion and a par-An inflation rate of 30 percent is allel economy have cost as

Those words and steps recently taken, some international lenders and investors say, are a start.

"I think in the last four months the current government has taken some very concrete efforts to reverse the start-and-slop pattern of past reforms." Vorkink of the World Bank. "But a number of actions still need to be But little headway has been made taken before the international con-

Very briefly:

 The Eurupean Parliament voted against exempting Eurobonds from a proposed withholding tax, easting aside British concerns that such action would trigger a flight of capital from the European Union. The parliament in Strasbourg, in a nonbinding vote, backed the proposed 20 percent levy on interest earned in one EU country by residents of another.

• U.S. mutual funds saw individual investors pull out \$1 billion in the week that ended Monday, said Trimtabs.com, a research company in Santa Rosa, California.

* Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.'s sale of global depository receipts - equal to half a regular share - was oversubscribed, according to Credit Suisse First Boston and Salomon Smith Barney Inc., coordinators of the sale of part of the Indian government stake in the only international phone company in the country.

 Singapore halved its sale of Development Bank of Singapore Ltd. bonds because it couldn't find enough buyers, bankers said. In Taiwan, Delta Electronics Inc. — a company involved in one of the world's fastest-growing industries had the same problem and cut its sale by a quarter.

Bangkok Bank PLC plans to sell 10 billion baht to 20 billion baht (\$271 million to \$542 million) of equity-linked bonds in the first half of the year to mise capital to offset loan defaults. Industrial Bank of Japan I.td. will sell about 150 billion yen (\$1.5 billion) of preferred securities as Japan's largest lenders scramble to replace capital drained by write-offs of bad loans and losses on securities.

SCHWAB: While Its Rivals Struggle With the Internet, the Brokerage Dominates On-Line Trading

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vestor confidence Those measures exel g tions on margin fund provided wither invest- the into stocks, required nies would be companies to approve dische information and promoduc treation into stock markets latson

The series of efforts one Taiwan's recommand growthing showed to 4.5 i percent theless ause money in 15 years Office to have been growth in loom will be at. dlowed three slower 4 4 per chi a their the ministry continues to safter from the

"Investors were not prope

Continued from Page 11 conduct transactions or open accounts. The new Schwab plans to expand those centers and build at least 200 new ones to form what Mr. has often criticized as leading to Pottruck calls the "social fabric" of investing. They will bold seminars and training sessions. A client who

cussion on custody accounts and estate planning. The way Barnes & Noble 1:should compete with Amazon.com is not to offer books at lower prices, gibut to create links between on-line is and local services," Mr. Pottruck to some hot initial public offerings. asaid. "How do you tie the two torgether and huild relationships? That's the next phase on the Internet

! sets up a child's trust, say, might get

lean e-mail invitation to a live dis-

business. Schwab is also moving the line in

Advertisement

the sand between itself and Wall Street investment banks, which typically work for companies that sell stock as well as customers who trade shares. That is a role that Schwab

conflicts of interest. Schwab still does not underwrite securities on its own, avoiding becoming an investment banker for companies. But it has agreed to join investment banks that act as lead underwriters in offering Schwab customers a chance to huy new issues, recognizing that it cannot compete across the board with the big brokerages without giving customers access

Perhaps the biggest initiative is its

For Information please contact Katy Hourt: Fax [33-1] 41 43 92 12 or e-mail: funds@list.com

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team of perhaps eight designated money to professionals who invest magnify the value we deliver to cliconsultants to help manage their portfolios

And though the company does not plan to advertise it, the wealthiest, if they choose, will be able to have a single broker monitor their own money and get the help they

investments. Much of this high-end push is part of Schwab's unstated goal to remove Merrill from the top of the hierarcby of retail investing, Schwab acknowledges that the people it loses to full-service firms tend to be the wealthiest clients, who say that they have graduated from Schwab's do-it-yourself ethic to a full-service broker.

Part of the answer is Schwab's 'signature services.'' The plan is to network of fee-based investment adretain more wealthy customers, es- visers. Through these 400 advisers pecially those with more than so far, the firm refers customers who \$500,000 in assets. Many will get a do not want to manage their own

for them through Schwab.

But for those who do not want to rely on advisers. Schwab's latest initiative is to convince wealthy cuslomers that they can control their

Merrill, whose nearly \$1.5 trillion in customer assets is about triple what clients invest through Schwab, intends to be a major player on-line as well as in its traditional hrokerage business, said Jim Wiggins, a spokesman.

"We have over 400,000 clients to actively manage their accounts,

face," Mr. Wiggins said. Lynch won't be using the Internet to longer unusual.

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ents is making a major miscalculation.

In fact, Schwab still often acts like an underdog, perhaps because some of its good fortune could easily be short-lived.

Schwab will face more competition from full-service brokerage firms in coming months, even though many of them face pressures from their brokers not to lure clients on-line, Moreover, 20 or so low-cost on-line trading companies are nip-

ping at Schwab's heels. Julio Gomez of Gomez Advisors with \$300 billion in household as- Inc., an Internet consultancy that sets who already use Merrill on-line rates on-line trading firms, ranks Schwab's Web service as No. 8 out and we are just scratching the sur- of 20, in part because its \$29.95 fee for each trade is at the top end of an "Anyone who thinks that Merrill industry where S8 trades are no

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NOTICE TO THE UNITHOLDERS SKANDIFOND FAR EAST

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SKANDIFIND FAIL EAST MANAGEMENT RECULATIONS

modification taking effect on March Co. 1999. fleferring to the version dated July 1st, 1998, the following modifications have been brought about

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Herald Cribune PORTS

Moya Ousts Muster

TEMMIS Second seed Carlos Moya of Spain defeated Thomas Muster of Austria, 6-4, 6-4, on Wednesday to reach the third round of the \$1 million Dubai Open.

Meanwhile, Francisco Clavet of Spain, surprised fourth seed Greg Rusedski of Britain, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2. Earlier, Felix Mantilla beat Byron Black of Zimbabwe, 7-6 (7-1), 6-3, and a fellow Spaniard, Albert Costa, lost to Nicolas Kiefer

of Germany, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3). Mantilla, the No. 7 seed, stayed on course for a second successive appearance in the Dubai final, looking to erase the memory of his loss last year to Alex Corretja, who was upset Tuesday by Andrew Ilie of Australia.

Mantilla trailed 0-2 and needed more than one hour to win the first set before winning the second set with relative ease.

Costa, the sixth seed, was well below form, and the German dominated the first set. In the second, the Spaniard trailed 0-4 before breaking the 21-year-old Kiefer to level the match and take it to a

Yugoslavia and Cyprus Win

SOCCER Yugoslavia and Cyprus scored comfortable victories on Wednesday to boost their chances of qualifying for the finals of the 2000 European Championships.

Yugoslavia cruised to a 3-0 triumph over Malta in a European Championship Group Eight qualifying match in Valetta, Malta. The victory lifted the Yngoslavs into the lead of the group.

Cyprus, the surprise pacesetters in Group Six, downed San Marino 4-0 in Limassol, Cyprus, for their third victory in four qualifying matches. (AFP)

Sampras Returns Strong

TENNIS Even Pete Sampras was surprised at how easy it was to come back from a 10-week break. Sampras, who had not played since Nov. 28, had 11 aces — at least one in each of his service pames - in a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Galo Blanco that took one hour Tuesday in the first round of the Sybase Open in San Jose, Cali-

WORLD ROUNDUP Report Widens Scope Of Olympic Misdeeds

U.S. Committee Is Implicated for First Time

SALT LAKE CITY — The U.S.

Olympic Committee was linked for the first time to possible corruption, and 10 more International Olympic Committee that it was part of any quid pro quo.

"We were committed to help Salt Lake's bid, and to the extent that finding places at our training center for qualified athletes might have helped convince Sudals and the Salt Lake Or were pleased to do so," said Mike Mortal Carrolles and the Salt Lake Or a SISCO strokes man. Olympic Committee was linked for the first time to possible corruption, and 10 more International Olympic Committee members were implicated for accepting extravagant gifts as part of a widening bribery scandal.

The 300-page report issued Tuesday by an ethics panel of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee provided the first an, a USOC spokesman detailed gimpse of the way 24 members "That was proper," I of the International Olympic Committee - roughly one-fifth of the membership

ships, shopping sprees, vacations and medical expenses doled out as Salt Lake

City bid for the 2002 Winter Games. The extremes to which bid executives obliged, sharing an additional \$1 million in donated air fares, hotel rooms and

shopping with committee members, were unethical, the panel concluded.
Four IOC members have resigned and five have been expelled so far, and the IOC indicated Wednesday it was pre-

pared to consider expelling more. "The 10C remains fully committed to investigating and taking action based on all available evidence," the committee said from its headquarters in Lausanne,

The ethics panel's report demonstrated that senior staff members of the U.S. Olympic Committee seemed willing to curry favor with Sudan, whose athletes were being trained in the United

States with Salt Lake City money.
The report cited the USOC's involvement by detailing a November 1995 email exchange among three USOC staff directors. It contained repeated references to an agreement to help train Sn-danese athletes at USOC facilities as part bid records that the panel reviewed. The others newly implicated, according to the content of the conte

rector for international relations.

When Iim Page, the USOC's deputy executive director for programs, balked at picking up Salt Lake's portion of the geria. training cost after the city was awarded the 2002 Games, Tom Wilkinson, then the assistant executive director, said it Insurance, said Wednesday it was canhad to be paid because "a deal is a deal and Sudan delivered." "May need Sudan again in future,"

Wilkinson wrote, "Don't burn

"That was proper," he said. "But we did not take part in any effort to buy his

— were involved.

The report said there were more than \$1 million in cash payments, scholar
ships character and willi Kaltschmitt of Guatemala appear to have benefited substantially. The report said "some IOC members treated their site visits more like vacations. and then discussed the cases of Coles and Kaltschmitt.

"The Coles and Kaltschmitt families stayed at expensive hotels," the report said. "Two of these trips were only four months apart in 1995, including a Super Bowl trip that does not appear to have included a visit to Salt Lake City."

The \$19,991 tab for the Super Bowl was picked up by the Salt Lake bid committee and its president, Tom Welch one of the two men, along with David Johnson, his vice president — that the ethics panel chiefly blamed for the pan-

Coles, although he has denied any wrongdoing, stepped down Wednesday from Sydney's organizing committee board for the 2000 Summer Olympics, pending an IOC inquiry.

Austin Sealy of Barbados, another of

the 10 newly named IOC members, received payments through a company af- Championships. filiated with a consultant, according to The others newly implicated, accord-

of Salt Lake City's campaign.

"A lot of promises were made to secure votes," wrote Alfredo La Mont, who, at the time, was the USOC's director for international relations.

When Jim Page, the USOC's deputy executive director for programs, balked Samoa and Mohammed Zerguini of Al-

celing negotiations with NBC for \$20 to deal with the scandal.



Kjetil Andre Aamodt skiing past a slalom gate in Vail on his way to the gold medal in the men's combined event"

2 Norwegian Skiers Clean Up, as Usual

The Associated Press

Kjus, 28, agreed. "Kjetil is such a medals in a career, with 13. Kjus is not vall., Colorado — Aamodt and marvelous skrier," he said. "He mo- far behind, with 11.

Kjus, Kjus and Aamodt.
The two Norwegian stars have become as inseparable as salmon and boiled potatoes at the World Alpine Ski

Kjetil Andre Aamodt and Lasse Kjus finished 1-2 on Tuesday in the men's combined event, giving Aamodt his hind Austria's Hermann Maier, and second medal at these championships Aamodt was third. Last Tuesday, Kjus and Kjus his third. They feed off each other's accom-

plishments and have been for more than "Lasse and I motivate each other by having good results," said Aamodt, 27.

When he's not at the start, I don't feel like racing either. "I've been skiing against him since I

was 6 years old, and he's the skier I in Kitzbahel, Austria. measure myself against. He's been domillion in ads to protest the IOC's failure ing so well this year, and Ffeel fortunate

tivates me and helps me to ski faster. We're a positive influence on each oth-

It's the second time in these chamionships that Aamodt and Kjus have joined each other on the podium. Kjus was second in Saturday's downhill, beshared the super-G gold medal with

True to their symbiotic relationship, the Norwegians have dominated the two combined events on the World Cup circuit this season. Kjus was first and Aamodt second in a combined in Wengen, Switzerland, on Jan. 17. A week later, Aamodt was first and Kjus second

world championship and Olympic sitions in the second run.

In this event, the combined times of a downhill and two slalom runs determine the combined champion.

Asmodt, gold medalist in combined at the last world championships in 1997 in Sestrieres, Italy, led Kjus by .40 seconds entering the second heat of the slalom. Kjus had the second-fastest time in the second run of 45.12 seconds, giving him;

a combined time of 2 minutes, 43.25 seconds and putting pressure on his teammate, who skied pext. But Aamodt was up to the challenge. Early in his run, he lost a few hundredths of his advantage, but he punched out gates in a mad rush to the bottom, fin-

ishing in 45.36 for a total time of 2:43.09. Switzerland's Paul Accola took the With his second medal, Aamodt tied bronze medal as the top seven racers Marc Guardelli's record for the most after the first statom run held their po-

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s-Detroit 53 Pho 16. Hughes 6-10 4-6 16. Rebounds—D (Dele 12), Philadelphia 56 (Raffiff 9).

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TURESPAY RESULTS

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1st Period: V-May 4 (York, Jovonovski) 2

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(Brusheuz, Robertsson) 3

N.J.-Hollis 21 (Stevens) 4, V-Gagner 5 (Math. Morchall) 7, V-Berhazzi 6 (Messiers Jovonovski) 5-bris en geel: V-10-10-13—33.

N.J.-19-14-6—41. Geoffes: V-Snow. N.J.Brodeur.

Washlagten 1 0 1—2

1st Period: None. Shelts au geel: D-18-16-16-50. Nashville 6-10-5—21. Geoffes: D-depoed. Nashville 6-10-5—2 Vencouver
New Jersey
1st Period: V-May 4 (York, Jovanovski). 2.
V-Scatchard 9 (Brushear, Robertson) 2.
N.L., Daneyte 2 (Marrison, Oliva) 4. N.J.Stevens 5 (Hollic) 2d Period: None. 3d Period:
N.J.-Hollic 21 (Stevens). 4. V-Gogner 5 (Claft,
Mackatil) 7. V-Bertuzzi 6 (Macsiles,
Jovanovski) Shets en gest: V-10-10-13-33.
N.L. 19-14-8-41. Goalles: V-Snow, N.J.-

AUSTRALIA YS. ENGLAND LINGTED OVERS FINAL WEDNESDAY IN SYDNEY 2: 232-8 innings closed England: 222 in 49.2 overs.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP VAL, COLO. DOWNSHILL AND BLALON EVENTS 1. Kjell Andre Astrock, Nor Kjelli Andre Azmodi, Norway, 2 mls,
 Lasse Kjus, Norway, 25(3.25)
 Paul Accola, Switzerland, 25(3.62) Christian Mares, Austria, 2:43.89

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Players selected by the Cleveland Browns

Teestay in the expansion draft: im Pyne, c. Deholb 2. Hurvin McCo to June 1 Section 2 Floring 2 Floring 1 Floring College (New England: 4. Damon Gibson, wr. Cinchnett & Steve Gardon, c. San Francisco: 6. Tarek Soleta B. Caroline 7. Left Buckley, g. Allamb 8. Joson Kyle, la. Scalific 9. Rod Monuel, de 8. Joson Kyle, B. Scottle, 9. Rod Manuel, di Pitisburgh: 10. Lenoy Jones, R. Tennesse 11. Tim McTyer, Ct. Philadelphia: 12. Eijid Alexander, Ib. Indianopolis; 13. Pete Sw sor, of Konsos City 14. Gerome William os Cily 14. Gen son, ot Romers Chry 14, Genome Williams, s. San Diego 15, Marino Forbes, s. Chicago 16, Justin Armour, wr. Denver; 17, Poul Wigglin, ot. Washington 18, Donne Buller, s. Minnesont 19, Fred Brock, wr. Artzong 20, Korf Bioclowall, cb. N.Y. Glante; 21, Kevin Devine Biochweil, cb. N.Y. Glorite 21. Kevin Devine ch. Jacksonviller 22. Ray Jackson, cb. Bull foto: 23. Jim Bondren, g. N.Y. Jebs 24. Best Cardl. g. Bullmore; 25. Michael Biola. rb. Green Bay: 26. Antonio Anderson, dt. Dallisse 27. Orlando Bobo, db. Minnesofo; 28. Janue; Williams, fb. San Francisco; 29. Scott Milanovich, qb. Tempe Bay; 30. Eric Stoker Seattle: 31. Ronald Moore, rb. Mianti Clarence Williams, rb. Buffalo: 33. Fred Sologon, wr. Philadelphia: 24. Ronald

Soloston, wr. Philodelphia: 34. Baundon-Sonders, s. N.Y. Giants: 35. Mike Thompson. nl. Circinnoti: 36. Jerris McPhall, rb. Defroit

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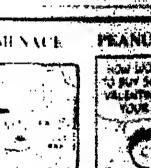
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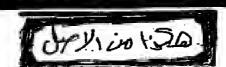
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY II, by



for behind, with 11

Astrock, gold medalist in combinel: the last world championships in 197; Sestrieres, Italy, led Kius by 40 send pratering the second heat of the shin.

seconds and putting pressure of k immate, who skied next. But Authorit was up to the challen

Barly in his run, he lost a few health of his advantage, but he pushels section in a mad rush to the bottom is 243.09

Symperiand's Paul Accola milk e second run



in the men's combineders

in this event, the combined unesti downfull and two statons runs determine the combined champion

Kjus had the second tastest timent percond run of 45 12 seconds, grante s combined time of 2 minutes 45

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The Associated Press

acip the Boston Celtics beat the weary, njury-depleted Miami Heat for the first ne in three years, 108-101.

Walker, scoring from the point and the paint, shot 12-for-27 and had 10 rebounds Tuesday night in Miami. Kenny Anderson scored 22 points and

NBA ROUNDUP

rookie Paul Pierce added 19, including three key baskets in the final 41/2 minutes to stymie Miami's comeback bid.

The Celtics had lost nine in a row to the Heat since beating them Feb. 3, 1996 in Miami. The Heat completed the first stretch of three games in three nights in franchise history. 76ers 90, Pletons 86 Theo Ratliff had

10 points, nine rebounds and five of Philadelphia's season-high 13 blocks as the host 76ers beat Detroit in a matchup of undefeated teams.

Grant Hill, coming off a career-high 46 points, scored 32 points on 11-for-18 shooting in the Pistons' third game in as many nights.

Busica 91, Raptors 77 Ray Allen scored 17 points, and survived a hard fall alongside Charles Oakley as Milwankee spoiled Toronto's home opener at historic Maple Leaf Gardens.

Allen, who left the game in the third with a sore back, came back in the fourth and hit two free throws to spark an 11-0 run that sealed the game. Timberwoives 74, Spors 70 In an ugly example of the type of post-lockout bas-ketball the NBA feared, Minnesota sur-

vived poor shooting nights from Stephon Marbury and Kevin Garnett to defeat visiting San Antonio. ... The Wolves hit only five shots in the final 8:49, and the Spurs made only two

New York Times Service

the controversial player whom the

New York Knicks risked their image

shortened 50-game season, if he is out

NEW YORK - Latrell Sprewell,

in the final 7:14. Hawks 87, Bulle 71 Steve Smith scored points.

The Associated Press 30 points, and the Hawks pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Bulls before

a sellout crowd at the United Center.

The Bulls, with only seven players from last year's championship team left on the roster, scrapped and instiled as they had done while splitting their first two road games. But Atlanta's talent won out, and Tom Floyd, Chicago's first-year coach, dropped his home debut.

Toni Kukoc, who shot just 6-of-21, and Mark Bryant scored 16 points each to lead the Bulls.

to lead the Bulls.

Jazz 20, Mawaricks 79 In Dallas, Kari
Malone scored 31 points, including seven straight in a fourth-quarter surge, as
Utah won its third straight.

Malone, who scored 21 and 28 points
as Utah beat Chicago and the Los
Angeles Lakers in its first two games,
put the Jazz ahead 76-74 with a basket
and 6:37 to go. The Jazz never looked
back against the new-look Mayericks. back against the new-look Mavericks, who played well for three quarters.
Kings 112, Same 95 Chris Webber had

28 points and 20 rebounds, and rookie Jason Williams scored 22 as Sacramento ended an 11-year, 24-game losing streak

All five starters reached double figures for the Kings, who hadn't won in Phoenix since Jan. 30, 1988. Corliss Williamson added 18 points for Sacramento.

SuperSonice SO, Warriors 71 Gary Payton scored 20 points, and host Seattle improved to 3-0 for the first time since the 1993-94 season. The Sonics opened up a comfortable

lead after one quarter, and the Warriors never cut the deficit to single digits the rest of the way. Payton played just three quarters as Seattle built a 70-51 lead, and reserves

played the fourth period for both teams. John Starks led the Warriors with 12

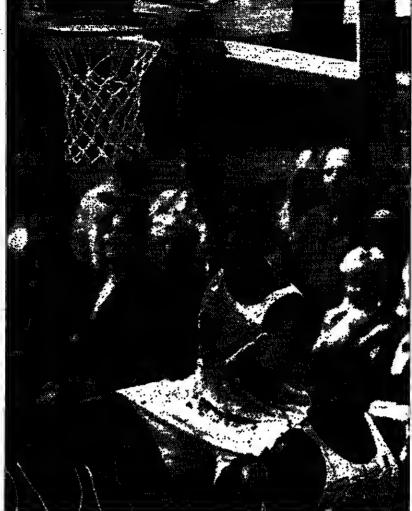
"It is tough because everyone was

excited to see how the talent would mesh," said Dave Checketts, pres-

ident and chief executive officer of

imo, coach of his former team.

Golden State Warriors, in 1997.



John Wallace of the Toronto Raptors reacting to a call against his team.

27 Down, Princeton Wins

By Kathy Orton shington Post Service

PHILADELPHIA -- Nearly every season, with astonishing predictability, Penn and Princeton find themselves locked in a battle for first place in the Ivy

League.
Tuesday night, before a deafening capacity crowd of 8,722 at the Palestra, the teams hooked up in one of the most

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

memorable games in league history as Princeton produced one of the greatest comebacks the college game has seen. The Tigers came back from a 27-point second-half deficit to win, 50-49, and seize control of the conference race.

led, 40-13. Penn (14-4, 6-1) went scoreless the final three minutes.

The Division I record for largest deficit lost an Ivy game - a 35-0 record.

overcome to win a game is 32, when Duke came back to defeat Tulane in 1950. With 2 minutes 14 seconds remaining.

Princeton took its first lead when its freshman center, Chris Young, made a hook shot. Penn (14-4, 6-1), which went scoreless the final three minutes, then had a chance to win, but Matt Langel's jumper from near the right baseline hit the front of the rim.

The 96-year-old Penn-Princeton rivalry is like few others in college basketball. No two teams have ever dominated a conference like these two have. Since the 1956-57 season, when Ivy League teams officially began to play basketball against each other, only six times has the champion not been either the Quakers or the Tigers.

And because the Ivy League is one of After trailing, 29-3 late in the first half only two conferences in Division I and 33-9 at halftime, Princeton (16-4, 7- men's basketball not to have a con-0 Ivy League) kept alive its 11-game ference tournament, this season series winning streak by outscoring Penn, 41. usually decides who represents the 16. Early in the second half, the Quakers league in the NCAA tournament.

Since Coach Bill Carmody took over for Pete Carril in 1996, Princeton has not

Arnott's Goal: Too Late

Shot Scores After Buzzer as Devils Lose, 4-3

Todd Bertuzzi scored on a spectacular spinning backhander with 8:36 to play and the Vancouver Canucks added to New Jersey's home woes by just barely holding on to beat the Devils, 4-3.

An apparent game-tying goal by Jason Amott was scored a fraction of a second after the final buzzer on Tuesday night. The green light came on and

NHL RODHDUP

referee Stephen Walkom waved off the goal after consulting with replay of-ficials.

Dave Gagner, Brad May and Dave Scatchard also scored and Garth Snow had 38 saves in helping the Canucks break a four-game winless streak (0-3-1) and extend the Devils' winless streak at

home to four games (0-3-1).

Ken Daneyko, Scott Stevens and Bobby Holik scored for the Devils, with Holik's quick turnaround shot putting the Devils ahead, 3-2. The Devils have a league-best 18-7-1 road record, but are only 11-10-5 at home.

Capitals 2, Islanders 1 Olaf Kolzig stopped 21 shots and Adam Oates and Peter Bondra each scored as the visiting Washington Capitals beat New York for their fifth straight.

Zigmund Palffy scored for the Islanders with 47.4 seconds left, but Kolzig stopped three shots during one flurry to preserve the victory. Kolzig has allowed one goal in each of his last five

Penguins 3, Canadiens 2 Alexei Ko-valev scored with 29 seconds left in overtime after Kip Miller tied it late in the third period, and the host Pittsburgh Penguins won their seventh in a row by

Jaromir Jagr had a goal and an assist, giving the two-time NHL scoring champion 18 points in his last seven games and a league-high 77 for the season.

Sabree 1, Senators 1 Wayne Primeau scored 2:14 into the third period as the visiting Buffalo Sabres salvaged a tie

Alexei Yashin, the Ottawa captain, scored his 23d goal at 6:55 of the second period. All four games between the teams this season have reached over-

The Senators have lost only two of their last 20 games (13-2-5).

Red Wings 5, Predators 2 In Nashville, Brendan Shanahan keyed a four-goal second period with a goal and an assist as the Detroit Red Wings beat the Pred-

The victory snapped a two-game losing skid for the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions, who had been 1-3-1 over their previous five. The Red Wings got going by scoring three goals off just nine shots within the first eight minutes of the second.

Flames 2, Avalanche 1 In Denver, the Colorado Avalanche's franchise-record 12-game winning streak ended as Theo Fleury and Andrei Nazarov scored to lift the Flames.

Ken Wregget, sidelined by a back injury since Nov. 3, made 28 saves to help the Flames hand Colorado its first loss since a defeat at Detroit on Jan. 9.

Bruins 2, Oilers n Byron Dafoe made 31 saves for his sixth shutout of the season and the visiting Bruins got two third-period goals to beat the Edmonton

P.J. Axelsson, a right wing, and Anson Carter, left wing, scored third-period goals for the Bruins, who were outshot 31-27, including 17-4 in the third.

New Browns Go With Youth

The Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio - For nearly three hours, the new Cleveland Browns followed their expansion draft game plan to perfection by selecting young, inexpensive National Football League players with potential.
But in the closing seconds, the team

decided it was time to bring back an old name to add to its new roster. With their 37th and final selec-

tion," said Gene Washington, the league's director of player development, "the Browns select Antonio Langham, a former Brown who was a bust with the San Francisco 49ers, was back in Cleveland. Surrounded by bronzed Hall of

Fame busts of Jim Brown, Lou Groza, Milanovich.

Leroy Kelly and other Browns, Cleve-land started building with no-name players on Tuesday in the expansion draft. Priming for their return this season after a three-year absence, Cleve-land selected a Detroit center, Jim Pyne, with its first pick.
Drafting Pyne No. 1 set the tone for

a draft in which the Browns spent wisely - only two players have salary cap costs over \$1 million — and loaded up on young offensive linemen and defensive backs. Cleveland used 10 of its 37 picks on defensive backs and 9 on the offensive front.

The Browns also added five linebackers, four running backs, four wide receivers, four defensive lineman, and one quarterback.

DENNIS THE MENACE

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PEANUTS

Sprewell Out for 3 to 6 Weeks

to acquire in hopes of improving their Madison Square Garden, who took the

chances of a championship, will miss three to six weeks because of a stress fracture of the right heel. "Obviously, I'm disappointed," said Sprewell, who played in just two

cautionary magnetic resonance ima- regular-season games for the Knicks

ging test Tuesday afternoon revealed after sitting out 14 months because of

an injury that could leave the team the strike lockout and his 68-game

without Sprewell for half of the strike- suspension for choking P.I. Carles-



YES, MRS. NOSTRUM?... YOUR CLOTHESLINE?... UH-HUH?...

BEETLE BAILEY

HEY! THE GREEN

STOLEN MY

ARMY MUST HAVE



THEY'LL KNOW EVERY-THING WE'RE GOING TO PO

















CALVIN AND HOBBES









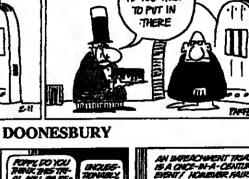
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Zippity Doodah

going to cut screenwriters in the bookkeeping. on the big money. The reason this is major news is that the motion picture companies Say "My Wild Irish Bour-have never put writers in the bon" turns out to be the same class as big-time actors and directors.

Writers were ignored when the grosses were split up.

Now Columbia (a.k.a. Sony) says it will give name writers up to 2 percent of the gross, the besides money they are paid to write the script.

Zippity doo- Buchwald dah. Once the motion picture pays back its costs we will all be driving around in Rolls Royces on clover.

But there's the rub — the phrase "once the costs of the motion picture are re-

Having had a slight experience with trying to collect "I want to thank you all for profits from the movie what you have done. Maybe "Coming to America," I am the next time we'll see a light going to warn all the writers at the end of the tunnel not to get their hopes up.

Almost no motion picture

unless we have to pay for the tunnel."

NEW YORK — The big makes money. The greatest places from Hollywood is blockbusters wind up in the that a movie studio (Columbia) has announced that it is the film — it has to do with

biggest hit of the year, gross-ing a minimum of \$800 million, with the Tanzanian theaters still waiting to report

The head of the studio, with tears in his eyes, tells the people entitled to a piece of the gross, "Wc lost our shirts."
"How is that?"

"Besides prints, advertising and cellular telephones, we spent \$400,000 for new Porsches for our executives, \$1 million for our distribut-ors' trip to Turkey, \$2 million to refurbish my offices and another million for reserved

parking places.
"It's a pity the picture went under because we all had high hopes for it. That's why we spent \$8 million to dub it in Hungarian.
"I want to thank you all for

Cheers and Boos in Argentina

The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES — The Oscar nomination of the film "Tango" for best foreign film received a mixture of cheers and boos in Argentina. A tango dancer who appears in the film, an Argentine-Spanish joint venture, and a critic said they were pleased, but another critic called the film "absurd."

Juan Carlos Copes, the dancer, praised the Spanish director, Carlos Saura, for his "fresh look" at Argentina's popular music, "Every time we film tango, we put on a hat and show the same stereotype. But this film shows the protagonist's feelings to the music of tango," said Copes, a star of the Broadway show Tango Argentino.

But the film critic Eduardo Antin said: "It treats tango in a

very superficial way. It's the kind of film to be shown at airports. I felt sad and angry at the uomination."

Two French Heroes Battle Hollywood's Hordes

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

PARIS — In their 30 comic-book adventures to date, Asterix and Obelix have repeatedly outfoxed the Roman invasors of 50 B.C., thanks to a magic potion concocted by a Druid elder. But now far more is at stake. In their first screen outing, "Asterix and Obelix Against Caesar," the feisty Gallic villagers have again been called on to save France, but this time from Hollywood and its marauding blockbusters.

Of course it could be said the war has already been lost. But although French movies accounted for only 27 percent of tickets sold here in 1998, their worst performance in years, the entire French industry is counting on winning at least one battle.

And for this the Gauls have even been

given an extra dose of Hollywood's own magic potion: money. Opening in a record 764 theaters last week and costing \$48.3 million, "Asterix et Obelix Contre Cesar" is the most expensive French-language movie ever made.

Directed and co-written by Claude Zidi, it is produced by Claude Berri, long a successful director and now a mini-mogul of the French movie scene. French investors have put up half the money, with Italians and

Germans providing the balance.

The live-action film also has a strong cast, with Christian Clavier as Asterix, Gerard Depardieu as Obelix, Roberto Benigni as Detritus, Caesar's treacherous sidekick, and the model Lactitia Casta as Falbala, Obelix's

That said, the battle has not started well, with the film being struck first by friendly fire. In the weeks preceding its release it was enormously promoted by French newspa-pers, which uniformly exploited the Rome-Hollywood analogy. It was, Le Monde proclaimed, "the image of resistance to American cinematographic imperialism." But when the reviews came in, many movie critics forgot their patriotic duty and were

"Yes, I confess it; I am a traitor to French cinema," Andre Bercoff wrote in France Soir. "After a few minutes full of bope, I ended up bored senseless by Asterix and Obelix." Le Parisien asked, "Where did the magic potion go?" And Liberation's verdict was no less negative. "The move from comic book to film has fatally put an end to a dream," it said. "The bubble has burst."



Gerard Depardieu, left, is Obelix and Christian Clavier is Asterix.

Still, as Hollywood endlessly demon-strates, blockbusters with troubled scripts and lively special effects can easily survive snakes, lions, tarantulas, crocodiles and an bad reviews. In fact the big-budget Holly-wood films that do well here year in year out are routinely savaged by French critics. And, as it happens, everything indicates that "As-terix and Obelix Against Caesar" has started well at the box office and is particularly liked by children under 14, who are usually accompanied by adults.

The film has some strong points. With its 60 actors bolstered by no fewer than 1,500 extras, the heroic Gauls do indeed seem to be taking on the entire Roman army. Clavier and Depardieu look their parts, while Benigni adds a touch of genuine Roman humor ("I am Etruscan, not Roman," Benigni

The movie's strongest seiling point, though, is the extraordinary popularity of the Asterix books, which have sold some 280 million copies in 85 languages since the first comic strip was published by Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo in 1959. Goscinny died in 1977 and Uderzo has published the last six books on his own.

France is Asterix's biggest market, with 95 million books sold to date, followed closely by Germany with 88 million sold. Some 20 million copies have been sold in Britain, but the books have not been marketed in the United States.

lowing outside their home territory, and this augus well for foreign sales of dubbed versions of "Asterix and Obelix Against

"I cannot see anything less than 10 mil-lion viewers," Berri told Liberation. France, unlike the United States, traditionally measures a movie's performance by the number of tickets sold rather than the box office-

In the battle against Hollywood, of course, what really counts is how well the film does in France. Last year, although total movie attendance here rose to 170 million, largely-as a result of "Titanic" (21 million), the French industry's share of the domestic manket fell to 27 percent, from 34.5 percent in 1997. Three French films did well — "Le Diner des Cons' (8.5 million), "Couloirs du Temps" (8 million) and "Tang (6.2 million) — but significantly, all week comedies aimed at a mass market. The most acclaimed art house film of the year, Hind a Zonca's "Dreamlife of Angels," did in more modestly (1.2 million).

more modestly (1.2 million).

In the case of "Asterix and Obelies, Against Caesar," 5 million tickets sold it, home and another 5 million abroad will take it safely out of the red, but that may safe suffice to claim victory over Hollywood, the commingly endless debatis. More likely, the seemingly endless debat about why French movies do not do better home and abroad will continue. And if and debate does not change, it is because a structure of the French movie industry resident

French productions must account for 40 percent of films shown on television here. while Canal-Plus, the pay-television movie and sports channel, is required to invest heavily in French movies. Thus, 120 to 140 new French films are released here every year, far more than the domestic theater market can absorb. Add to that the distributors' preference for Hollywood blockbusters over low-budget local fare and it is easy to see why many French films - even good ones - can go almost unnoticed here.

In the best of cases, then, "Asterix and Obelix Against Caesar" may be among the most popular French movies of the year. But alone, it seems, these hardy Gauls are unlikely to strike fear in Hollywood.

France likes to boast that it has the only European movie industry that has so far avoided being totally crushed by Hollywood, rotests).

Thus, like Superman and Batman before
But the best scenes come thanks to special them, Asterix and Obelix have a huge folmovement inside an occupied country.



some help at rehearsals for the opening of Rio's Carnival on Friday.

SMALL Danish museum has A offered a \$50,000 reward for information about a Rembrandt painting and another work that were stolen two weeks ago. Rembrandt's "Portrait of a Lady" and Giovanni Bellini's "Portrait of a Young Man" were taken from the Nivaagaard Collection museum in Hoersholm, just north of Copenhagen on Jan. 28 by two men. The value of the Rembrandt has been estimated at up to \$16 million

A former assistant to Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman is suing the couple, claiming they fired her without cause. Judita Gomez said she received good or excellent" work evaluations during the five years she worked for the movie stars, helping them select clothes and with househeld chores. But in a Superior Court lawsuit in Los Angeles, Gomez claims she was fired July 31 and "is now unable to obtain employment-related benefits at the same salary she was carning." She said she was required to sign a contract last

July, but was not told it included a clanse allowing them to "fire her for any reason." Gomez is seeking un-specified damages from the couple and two of their other employees.

The cellist Yo-Yo Ma has been named the winner of the 1999 Glenn

Gould Prize. Created by the Glenn Gould Foundation and intended as a tribute by the people of Canada to the life and work of Gould, the Canadian pianist and composer who died in 1982, the accolade for exceptional contribution to music and its communication carries an award of 50,000 Canadian dollars (about \$34,000). Previous win-

Oprah Winfrey Sours on Television

The Associated Press London—Oprah Winfrey says daytime television has become a "vulgarity circus," and she is getting out when her contract expires in two years.

In an interview with The Sunday Times, "Vinited attacked her latest Springer and said it was hard to return to television after shooting her latest movic, "Beloved."

PEOPLE

"Coming off that wonderful film to be just interviewing more dys-functional people was a letdown," she said. She called Springer's show a "vulgarity circus." "Unless you are going to kill people on the air, and not just hit them on the head with chairs, and unless you are going to have sexual intercourse then there comes a point when you have oversaturated yourself,"

'My contract has two years left, then I am getting out of such shows because I feel they are going to burn themselves out.

ners include R. Murray Schafer, Yehudi Menuhin, Oscar Peterson and Toru Takemitsu.

While steering clear of Germany's debate over what a national Holocaust memorial should be, the director Steven Spielberg said Wednesday that his archive of interviews with survivors was still "in the wings" if Germany wants to include it. Spielberg, in Berlin for the screening of his Holocaust documentary. "The Last Days" at the film festival, declined to comment on competing concepts for the memorial, but he indicated that he was still interested in having the archives of his Shoah Visual History Foundation as part of the project. Spielberg first made the suggestion in a German magazine interview in November, and it reportedly was backed by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's culture adviser, Michael Naumann, but there was no mention of it in a new concept Naumann unveiled in December. After more than a decade of public debate, Parliament is to vote on the project this year.



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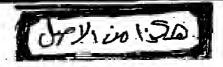
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